

Hafa Adai!

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## Driver in Marpi hit-and-run to be tried as minor

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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 REPORTER

The Superior Court decided yesterday to try as a minor the 17-year-old male who was allegedly driving the car that hit and killed a 20-year-old woman in Marpi and abandoned her lifeless body on the shoulder of the road.

See **DRIVER** on **Page 4**



### CLASS PROJECT

Kagman High School Class of 2006's Shawna Babauta repaints the curb of the KHS student parking lot. Members of the class came together last Saturday to repaint the student parking curb and markings, thanks to the go-ahead from KHS principal Ben Jones and buckets of paint donated by the office of Rep. Leila Staffler (D-Saipan).

JOSHUA SANTOS

## 15 of last 23 positive cases were vaccinated

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
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 REPORTER

Of the last 23 positive COVID-19 cases reported in the CNMI, 15 were vaccinated, which means they are considered “breakthrough cases”—the term used when vaccinated people are infected by the COVID-19 virus.

This was learned from the Commonwealth Health Care Corp. last Sunday, with information that the total number of breakthrough cases in the CNMI will be shared some-

See **POSITIVE** on **Page 4**

### AT A GLANCE

As of 7pm, Aug. 9, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population **73.4%**  
 Fully Vaccinated: **73.4%**

Days since last community transmission **139**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	<b>28,319</b>
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>26,406</b>
Moderna	
Initiated:	<b>4,372</b>
Fully Vaccinated:	<b>4,107</b>
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	<b>599</b>

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>8,673</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>8,725</b>
Recovered	<b>8,370</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>8,391</b>
Active	<b>139</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>191</b>
Deaths	<b>143</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>143</b>

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	<b>206</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>206</b>
Traced via Travel Screening	<b>169</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>169</b>
Traced via Community Screening	<b>37</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>37</b>
Deaths	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

## US cases and deaths

As of 11 a.m. ET, Aug. 5



Source: CSSE  
 Graphic: Staff, TNS

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

## US averaging 100,000 new COVID-19 infections a day

By **TERRY SPENCER and KELLI KENNEDY**  
 ASSOCIATED PRESS

**FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP)**—The COVID-19 outbreak in the United States crossed 100,000 new confirmed daily infections Saturday, a milestone last exceeded

during the winter surge and driven by the highly transmissible delta variant and low vaccination rates in the South.

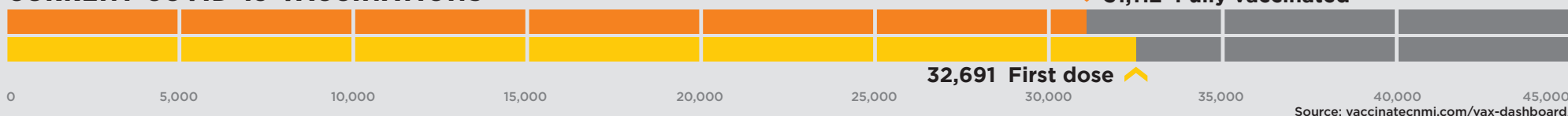
Health officials fear that cases, hospitalizations and deaths will continue to soar if more Americans don't embrace the vaccine. Nationwide, 50% of residents are fully vaccinated and more than 70% of adults have received at least one dose.

“Our models show that if we don't (vaccinate people), we could be up to several hundred thousand cases a day, similar to our surge in early January,”

Centers for Disease Control

See **US** on **Page 4**

### CURRENT COVID-19 VACCINATIONS



Source: vaccinatecnmi.com/vax-dashboard/

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

After a mask-free summer, it's a reversal no one wanted to see, brought on by the delta variant.

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#### NATION

Dr. Anthony Fauci is hopeful the FDA will give full approval to the coronavirus vaccine soon.

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#### WORLD

Pillars of smoke and ash turn the sky orange and block out the sun above Greece's second-largest island.

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# Local

## CCC funds just enough to last until end of August 2022—audit

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Casino Commission is faced with many questions in locating and identifying dependable sources of funding beyond August 2022 and into fiscal year 2023, according to an independent auditors' report.

Right now, CCC only has enough funds for the remaining 40% of its staff until the end of August 2022, with a portion of the remaining budget covering more scaled-down operations, states the Deloitte & Touche LLC report dated July 23, 2021.

Deloitte, which the Office of the Public Auditor hired to audit CCC's statements and expenditures for years ended Sept. 30, 2019 and 2018, informed CCC executive director Andrew Yeom that CCC's statements of revenues and

expenditures present fairly, in all material aspects, the results of operations for the years ended Sept. 30, 2019, and 2018, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the U.S.

In its reports on CCC's internal control and on compliance, Deloitte determined that their tests showed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards.

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether CCC's statement of revenues and expenditures are free from misstatement, the auditor performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have an effect on the determination of financial statement accounts.

Deloitte said CCC's continuation of operations is dependent on collection of regulatory and annual casino license fees from Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC. (IPI). However, given the current position of IPI, Deloitte said it is not possible to predict that this revenue source will be available in the future and it is uncertain if additional revenue sources to maintain CCC may transpire.

Deloitte said economic uncertainties have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and that CCC expects this matter to negatively impact its future financial results. That financial impact, however, cannot be reasonably estimated at this time, Deloitte said. Other financial impacts could occur, though such potential impact is unknown.

The CCC management has already taken actions and measures to address losses and negative cash flows from operations. That includes approaching the CNMI government for local funds and working with the Legislature to amend the law to open the gaming industry to several casino licenses, if in case the exclusive license given to IPI is revoked or the exclusivity is waived.

Deloitte said the other action is that IPI's exclusive license may be revoked if complaints/orders are not resolved and more enforcement actions/complaints are

filed for revocation.

CCC is an autonomous agency that handles its own finances and procurement. From 39 employees last May, CCC's number of employees has dwindled due to the termination of 20 employees as a result of budget constraint and resignation of others.

The auditor said that during the years ended Sept. 30, 2019, and 2018, IPI accounted for 100% and 96%, respectively, of total CCC regulatory fee.

Deloitte said financial statements of IPI have disclosed various contingencies, which cast doubt on its

ability to continue as a going concern. Such matters could adversely affect the financial statements of CCC, Deloitte said.

In 2019, CCC's total revenue was \$3,098,361. Total expenditures, including \$1,607,193 in salaries and wages and \$401,664 in employee benefits, was \$2,720,637. This brings to \$377,724 in excess of revenues over expenditures.

In 2018, CCC collected total revenue of \$4,015,068. Total expenditures was \$2,971,977. This brings to \$1,043,091 in excess of revenues over expenditures.

## 'Many NMTI courses NCCER-accredited'

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
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REPORTER

Some courses of the Northern Marianas Technical Institute

are accredited by the National Construction Center for Education and Research and the school is currently exploring options for legitimate and

nationally-recognized certification for its automotive and culinary courses, according to NMTI interim chief executive officer Jodina Attao.

In an interview last Thursday, Attao said the courses that are NCCER-accredited are electrical, welding, carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and heating, ventilation, and air conditioning.

She said having these courses accredited is crucial to the trade school, as it will allow NMTI alumni to work anywhere after graduating and allow current students to transfer to other trade schools in the nation and continue their education.

NCCER certification is widely recognized by employers in the construction industry, and NMTI students who complete an NCCER-accredited course at the trade school can choose to pursue opportunities at any and all employers globally that accept NCCER certification.

"If a person were to complete programs here and they go out to the [U.S.] mainland or wherever, even Saudi Arabia, [the completion of NMTI courses] would be something that people take as certification," said Attao.

For NMTI's automotive course, Attao said she recently met with instructor Dante Yumul, who brought up the idea of NMTI pursuing course accreditation through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence. As for NMTI's culinary course, Attao said she will meet with instructor Chef Benjamin Babauta Jr. sometime later to discuss accreditation options.

"We're looking into trying to get legitimate [and nationally recognized] certificates for each of these. ...It's going to be stuff that we're going to explore," said Attao.



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# 'Static cohorts until PSS students, staff reach 80% vaccinated'

By **JOSHUA SANTOS**  
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REPORTER

CNMI Public School System's schools will be open for classes on Aug. 18, but whether these classes will be face-to-face, five days a week, or static cohorts will be determined by a school's ability to have 80% of its eligible population fully vaccinated against COVID-19, according to Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred B. Ada last Friday.

In line with this, Ada said that PSS hopes to announce

soon whether a school will be fully open or will have to conduct static cohorts by Aug. 13.

Static cohorts will be classrooms with students who will receive their education in-person, but all from one room during the school day to minimize the possibility of community spread. Students within these cohorts will not be allowed to participate in clubs or other extracurricular activities.

As part of his report last Friday during the State Board of Education's virtual meeting,

Ada said that 80% of teachers and staff at PSS' elementary school have already been vaccinated and will more than likely be fully open this new school year.

As per Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines, the eligible population for the COVID-19 vaccines are those who are 12 years old and above, which means elementary-aged students are not eligible yet for vaccinations, so PSS only counts elementary school teachers and staff for its vaccination rate at that level.

It's a different story for middle school and high school,

whose students are already eligible to be vaccinated and are therefore considered in the equation. Ada acknowledged that there have been challenges in upping vaccination percentages among these schools' 12-and-older student population. Currently, Ada said that teachers and staff across all secondary schools are almost at 80% vaccinated, but for students the average percentage of vaccinated is around 49%. Ada said Tinian Jr./Sr. High School reported that 80% of its student population is now fully vaccinated, making it possibly one of the first sec-

ondary schools to fully open this upcoming school year.

As for all remaining schools whose student populations have not yet reached 80%, Ada said that PSS has given itself the time window between now until Sep. 24—roughly the midpoint of the first quarter of the school year—to reach 80% across all secondary schools. If that goal is met by Sep. 24, all schools will transition from static cohorts to fully open, face-to-face classes.

PSS launched the vaccination campaign "Vaccination for Education" in June to encourage its eligible students

to get vaccinated. Since then, the CNMI's public schools have served as vaccination outreach sites to better provide access to COVID-19 vaccines to PSS students. Kagman Elementary School will serve as a vaccination site today, from 8am to noon.

With the first day of classes quickly nearing and the "Vaccination for Education" campaign in full effect, Ada said last Friday that all that PSS leadership can do now is wait. "Sept. 24 is our gauge. It's a waiting game, but for the most part I'm going to try to get everyone back," said Ada.

## MVA to evaluate source markets

The Marianas Visitors Authority has created five ad hoc committees to evaluate the feasibility of travel resumption from major sources markets.

The MVA board of directors voted last Friday, Aug. 6, to create ad hoc committees for Japan, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, and Korea, which already has a Travel Bubble arrangement with the Marianas.

"Now that we have a solid plan and the infrastructure is in place for receiving visitors from Korea, it's time to look at whether similar plans would be feasible with other markets," said MVA board chair Viola Alepuyo. "The process to test and quarantine all arriving tourists is approved by the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. and COVID-19 Task Force because our first and primary goal is keeping the community safe. The process to test and quarantine our arriving tourists is strict. However, it is imperative not to rely on only Korea in restoring our Marianas tourism industry. When Pandemic Unemployment Assistance ends next month, we want as many people as possible back to

work and able to provide for their families, so we will be looking at other markets."

The MVA appointed Tommy Kim, a member of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisors, as the chairperson for the Korea Ad Hoc Committee. Additional chairpersons will be appointed, and MVA members are invited to serve on the Ad Hoc Committees. The committees will be responsible for communicating with travel trade partners and governments in the respective markets to gather information that will help the ad hoc committee determine if the Marianas should pursue the market.

The MVA plans to meet with the Department of Finance to review potential funding for the program through the American Rescue Plan Act, which funds the ongoing Tourism Resumption Investment Plan program with Korea. The program provides subsidies to airlines, hotels, travel agencies, and related businesses to help jumpstart tourism, the Marianas' primary economic driver. At this time, three flights a week arrive in Saipan from Seoul-Incheon under the program. (PR)

## Blanco's House seat is declared vacant, Torres urged to call for special election

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez declared yesterday a vacancy in the House of Representatives and requested Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to call for a special election to fill the slot.

The vacancy was created with the recent passing of the late representative Ivan James Alafonso Blanco, who represented a Precinct 3 seat on Saipan. Blanco, 45, passed away last July 23 due to massive pulmonary embolism.

Villagomez noted in a letter to Torres that Blanco has not served one-half or more of his term in the 22<sup>nd</sup> House of Representatives. He cited Article 2, Section 9 of the CNMI

Constitution, which provides that "A vacancy in the legislature shall be filled by special election if one-half or more of the term remains."

"If less than one-half of the term remains, the governor shall fill the vacancy by appointing the largest number of votes and is willing to serve or, if no candidate is available, a person qualified for the office from the district represented," the Constitution adds.

Precinct 3 is the same precinct that also had a special election in March 2019, following the death of representative Francisco Dela Cruz in January 2019. Marko Taisakan Peter of the Republican Party easily won that special election in a four-way race.

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# E-gaming company file suit against Finance

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The owners of Saipan Vegas Resort and Club 88 have filed a lawsuit in Superior Court against the Department of Finance in an attempt to prevent the department from collecting the recently enacted local license fees that applies to all gaming devices on Saipan.

Mariana Entertainment, LLC and MP Holdings, LLC, the owners of Club 88 and Saipan Vegas Resort, have asked the court for a temporary restraining order and a preliminary permanent injunction that would prevent the department from assessing

and collecting the local license fee outlined in Saipan Local Law 22-6.

The local license fee essentially doubles the license fees on electronic gaming devices and was signed into law last Aug. 2.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Michael Dotts, told the court that if a preliminary injunction, or stay, on the enactment of Saipan Local Law 22-6 is not granted, 70 of its employees will lose their jobs and the entire electronic gaming industry on Saipan will disappear.

"Plaintiffs are likely to suffer irreparable harm in the absence of preliminary relief because if defendants assess the new license fee based on

Saipan Local Law 22-6, plaintiffs will have to close their business permanently as soon as possible and forfeit their investments in the hotels and golf courses to avoid a larger loss," he said.

The plaintiffs also want the court to declare Saipan Local Law 22-6 void, unconstitutional, and invalid.

Dotts argued that the passage of the bill was invalid for a number of reasons and warrants the bill being declared null and void.

One of the reasons the law was invalid, Dotts said, is because the law was proposed by Rep. Ralph Yumul (R-Saipan), who has a conflict of interest in the matter.

"Ralph Yumul, the brother of the CEO of Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, plaintiffs' direct competitor, who has a conflict of interest in this matter, also voted for its passage. For this reason, passage of the bill was invalid," he said.

Also, the plaintiffs claim that the newly imposed license fee is unreasonably high and will destroy their business.

"Although the local delegation may impose taxes on the revenue produced by electronic gaming de-

vices, the tax, if it is a gross revenue tax, is limited to 1% of the gross income. The bill imposes a cost of 15% of the gross revenue. For this reason, passage of the bill was invalid," said Dotts.

In addition, the plaintiffs believe that the Saipan local delegation did not give the Saipan Mayor's Office 30 days to review the bill before it was enacted by the legislative delegation, as required by law, which also warrants the bill be found invalid.

## IPI defers settlement payments to secure tower cranes

By **KIMBERLY B. ESMORES**  
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REPORTER

The U.S. Department of Labor and Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC have come to a tentative agreement to defer IPI's next settlement payment to allow IPI to use those funds to secure the cranes at the IPI Resort construction site that neighboring businesses have voiced concerns about.

According to IPI's 30<sup>th</sup> status report filed by counsel Michael Dotts, IPI told the U.S. District Court for the NMI that although there were no settlement payments due during the reporting period, they had already come to an agreement with USDOL to defer their September payment in

order to secure the tower cranes at their construction site.

"No settlement payment was due during the reporting period. The next settlement payment will be due on Sept. 1, 2021. However, there is a tentative agreement with DOL to defer this payment so that IPI can use the money to fund securing the tower cranes against typhoons," said Dotts.

In addition, Dotts also filed his official motion to withdraw as IPI's counsel in the matter for IPI's failure to pay his legal fees.

"The grounds for counsel's withdrawal are essentially that IPI has failed to pay legal fees and costs that IPI agreed to pay, and that the continuation of the representation will work a hardship on counsel. Plaintiff

will not be prejudiced by the withdrawal of counsel. Reasonable notice of counsel's intention to seek leave to withdraw has been given to IPI," Dotts stated.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, IPI construction site manager Jesse Aquiningoc earlier told Commonwealth Casino Commission board members during the board's meeting Thursday that he believes that, if not repaired immediately, Tower Crane No. 6 that is facing the beach may start to collapse in three months.

IPI's construction site in Garapan has three standing tower cranes: Tower Crane No. 5 facing Joeten Shopping Center, Tower Crane No. 6 facing the beach, and Tower Crane No. 1.

## US

From Page 1

and Prevention director Rochelle Walensky said on CNN this week.

It took the U.S. about nine months to cross 100,000 average daily cases in November before peaking at about 250,000 in early January. Cases bottomed out in June, averaging about 11,000 per day, but six weeks later the number is 107,143.

Hospitalizations and deaths are also increasing, though all are still below peaks seen early this year before vaccines became widely available. More than 44,000 Americans are currently hospitalized with COVID-19, according to the CDC, up 30% in a week and nearly four times the number in June. More than 120,000 were hospitalized in January.

The seven-day average for deaths rose from about 270 deaths per day two weeks ago to nearly 500 a day as of Friday, according to Johns Hopkins University. Deaths peaked at 3,500 per day in January. Deaths usually lag behind hospitalizations as the disease normally takes a few weeks to kill.

The situation is particularly dire in the South, which has some of the lowest vaccination rates in the U.S. and has seen smaller hospitals overrun with patients.

In the Southeast, the number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients jumped 50% to a daily average of 17,600 over the last week from 11,600 the previous week, the CDC says. Florida, Georgia, Alabama,

Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky represent 41% of the nation's new hospitalizations, the CDC says, twice their overall share of the population.

Alabama and Mississippi have the lowest vaccination rates in the country: less than 35% of residents are fully inoculated, according to the Mayo Clinic. Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas are all in the lowest 15 states.

Alabama saw more than 65,000 doses wasted because health providers couldn't find people to take them before they expired, according to State Health Officer Scott Harris. That represents less than 1.5% of the more than 5 million coronavirus vaccines doses that Alabama has received.

"Sixty-five thousand doses have been wasted. That's extremely unfortunate when we have such a low vaccination rate and of course, there are so many people in the world that still don't have access to vaccine," Harris said.

Florida has been especially hard hit. It makes up more than 20% of the nation's new cases and hospitalizations, triple its share of the population. Many rural counties have vaccination rates below 40%, with the state at 49%. The state again set a record Saturday, reporting 23,903 new cases.

Gov. Ron DeSantis, while encouraging vaccinations, has taken a hard line against mask rules and other restrictions. Running for reelection next year and eyeing a 2024 Republican presidential bid, he and President Joe Biden have verbally sparred in

recent days. DeSantis has accused the Democratic president of overreach, while Biden has said DeSantis should "get out of the way" of local officials if he doesn't want to fight the outbreak.

Some people have been scared off from the vaccine by bogus warnings on social media and from some non-medical media personalities.

Miami-area real estate agent Yoriris Duran, 56, said her family was swayed by the misinformation, although doctors and public health officials have almost universally encouraged people to get vaccinated. After she, her husband and 25-year-old son got seriously ill with COVID-19 and were hospitalized, she's now encouraging friends and family to get vaccinated.

"I don't want people to go through what we have gone through," she said in a video interview with Baptist Health Systems.

In some parts of the U.S., hospitals are scrambling to find beds for patients.

Dr. Leonardo Alonso, who works in several emergency rooms in Jacksonville, one of Florida's hardest-hit areas, said some hospitals are sending some COVID-19 patients home with oxygen and a monitor to free beds for sicker people.

"The ICUs, the hospitals are all on a near what we call mass casualty incident. They're almost at protocols where they're overflowing," Alonso said.

In Texas, Houston officials said some patients were transferred out of the city—one as far as North Dakota.

## POSITIVE

From Page 1

time later, as CHCC's team of investigators reviews past records.

Separately, CHCC chief executive officer Esther Muña said last Friday that CHCC has been sharing its recent findings on "breakthrough cases" of COVID-19 in the CNMI with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, as these cases have been the recent focus of nationwide studies conducted by the CDC. Even as fully vaccinated individuals test positive for COVID-19, being vaccinated mostly protects these individuals from severe illnesses and hospitalizations, according to CDC.

During a virtual news briefing last Friday, Muña explained that although fully vaccinated individuals are reporting as positive for COVID-19, being fully vaccinated has mostly protected these individuals from the worst of the virus.

"The CDC has found that even with these breakthrough cases, there is less severe illnesses, less hospital-

izations for those that are vaccinated," said Muña.

Muña said that breakthrough cases thus far have only been found in incoming travelers, and dispelled rumors that CHCC recently "rounded up" community members because they tested positive for COVID-19. Muña said the individuals were "rounded up" for the safety of the community, and added that all of these contacts have tested negative.

"So far, all these cases that we've identified are travelers. I know there were some rumors going on that we rounded up people that were positive. ...It's just a precaution, we want to protect the community. ...We rounded up contacts [of positive travelers], and are assessing them now to release those individuals who are low [risk], and they were all negative so far," said Muña.

CDC defines a "breakthrough case" as the detection of COVID-19 or antigen in a respiratory specimen collected from a person more than 14 days after they have completed all recommended doses of a COVID-19 vaccine.

## DRIVER

From Page 1

After a closed-door litigation between the defense and the prosecution that lasted over 30 minutes yesterday, the court decided to try as a juvenile the male suspect accused of hitting Sophia A. Demapan and leaving her lifeless along Route 30 in Marpi and, in doing so, sealed the entire case. This means the case and its proceedings will not be open to the public, not even to family members of the defendant or the deceased.

According to acting chief prosecutor Chester Hinds, it was a sad and unfortunate incident and the Office of the Attorney General will do what they can to find a resolution and do right by both the defendant and the deceased.

"This matter is a juvenile case. The court did order that no information be told about what happened during the hearing at this time. All I can say is that this is a sad and unfortunate incident and we want to just try and get to the best resolution that we can. For now, we are limited to what we can say so we're just not going to make any further comments," he said.

Hinds did clarify that they will discuss within their office whether they will petition to transfer the case and have the defendant tried as an adult. "We would need to discuss that with the investigators and also within our office and determine whether this is the kind of case that we would want

to transfer," he said.

During the hearing yesterday, handful of Demapan's and the defendant's family members showed up to witness the proceedings. However, because the matter is a juvenile case and a sealed one at that, they were all asked to step out and leave.

Meanwhile, in an interview with Department of Public Safety spokesperson Dre Pangelinan, he explained the process leading up to the arrest and why it took awhile.

Pangelinan said there is a process that DPS has to follow and different factors that needed to come to play before an arrest warrant was signed.

"We do understand that the public was awaiting this, but we do want the public to know that there is a process that we need to undergo and complete before we can execute an arrest warrant.

"The day after the incident, July 28, we had our officers on the scene and they started investigating the case. After the investigation at the scene, we did start questioning witnesses from that incident. The questioning continued for days but from there, we were able to extract information we could use to issue other warrants, one was the warrant authorizing us to take possession of the vehicle. That was another thing we needed to investigate. After the vehicle, we awaited the autopsy on the victim which was done last Friday. After the autopsy, that's when the warrant was signed. That is when we were officially able to make an arrest," he said.



## All travelers required to quarantine under updated entry rules

Out of an abundance of caution, effective today, Aug. 10, 2021, all inbound travelers are required to quarantine in the designated government facility, according to an Office of the Governor news statement yesterday.

Fully vaccinated travelers may apply to quarantine in the lodging of their choice after being verified for completing their COVID-19 vaccination ("vax verified"), passing a lodging or household assessment, receiving a negative COVID-19 test result on arrival, and attesting to strict Restriction of Movement until a negative test result is received from the required fifth-day COVID-19 test.

Fully vaccinated travelers seeking critical or essential status to move between home and their workplace must fill

out the critical essential status portion of the Health Declaration Form. Effective for Aug. 12 arrivals, those requesting critical essential status must upload a pre-arrival negative PCR test result into the Health Declaration Form.

"Vax verified" travelers' critical essential status will be evaluated by the Communicable Disease Investigation/Inspection team based on the ability to maintain social distancing inside the workplace, on the exposure risk to an identified positive case, or as deemed necessary. Travelers will be monitored randomly by the task force throughout the required five-day quarantine.

All travelers are encouraged to fill out their health declaration form at least 72 hours prior to arrival at <https://governor.gov.mp/covid-19/travel>.

The statement emphasized that the safety of the residents of the CNMI is the top priority of the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. Therefore all travelers are required to show up to their scheduled fifth-day test. Should any individual test positive during any test or fail to follow quarantine protocols, they may be isolated at the government quarantine facility.

If documents are submitted on arrival or less than 72 hours prior to arrival, travelers may need to quarantine in the designated government facility. Grantees are required

to practice the 3 W's—wear a mask, wash your hands, watch your distance—at all times and abide with other establishments' COVID-19 precautionary requirements.

With a confirmed COVID-19 delta variant case in the CNMI, the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC are urging residents of the CNMI to continue practicing the 3 W's, especially wearing masks indoors and around individuals whose vaccination status is unknown. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, for the two-week period ending July 31, the delta variant made up more than 90% of cases

that were sequenced. Wearing a mask and getting vaccinated against COVID-19 are the best steps to end this pandemic.

Getting vaccinated prevents severe illness, hospitalization, and death. Consider registering for COVID-19 vaccinations at [www.vaccinatecnmi.com](http://www.vaccinatecnmi.com), call 682-SHOT, or walk in to any vaccination outreach site.

The CNMI is reminded to watch out for misinformation and to follow updates directly from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC. The spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself.

If you are experiencing

COVID-19 symptoms, please contact the CHCC Tele-Triage hotline at (670) 233-2067. The hotline runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

For comments, concerns, and inquiries, call the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force hotline at (670) 287-0046/0489/1089, or email [travel@vaccinatecnmi.com](mailto:travel@vaccinatecnmi.com). The hotline runs 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Updates from the COVID-19 Task Force and the CHCC can be found on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts @governorcnmi and @cnmichcc, as well as through CNMI media partners. (PR)

## FOA presents 'One Act Plays'

The Friends of the Art resumes its in-person theater season this week with its production of *One Act Plays*, which starts this Wednesday, Aug. 11, at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse Theater.

These humorous and thought-provoking plays, written by David Ives, will be performed Thursday and Friday of this week (Aug. 11 and 12). Both show dates will start at 7pm. Tickets prices for all four shows start at \$3 for students and \$5 for adults.

*One Act Plays*, suitable for adults and youth of all ages, is directed by Harold Easton for this Friends of the Arts production.

You may purchase tickets

from members of the play's cast and at the door or reserve seats/tickets through Frank Gibson at [flgibson@yahoo.com](mailto:flgibson@yahoo.com).

All members of the community are invited to attend, bring their family and friends, and enjoy the show. The Friends of the Arts would like to offer special thanks to its sponsors and to the Division of Parks and Recreation for their support.

*One Act Plays* will have four one act plays written by renowned playwright Ives, who achieved his breakthrough success in the 1990s with an evening of one-act plays called *All in the Timing* which ran Off-Broadway for over six hundred performances. (PR)

## Power outages on Aug. 12, 13

There will be scheduled power service interruptions on Aug. 12 and 13, 2021.

### THURSDAY, AUGUST 12, 2021 - KOBLERVILLE

■ Outage Time: 9am - 12pm

□ Areas Affected: Koblerville (As Gonno Rd., Potu Cr., Tinaktak Dr., Buchibuchi Dr., Rosko Ave., Bonelos Ave., Magisa Dr., Roskete Ave., Broas Ave., Empanada Ln., Koblerville Elementary School, Coral Ocean Resort and Katmelo)

■ Distribution Circuit: Kiya 2

□ Water Well Affected: KV-20

□ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

□ Purpose: To re-sag primary lines and to install stirrups to protect the primary lines from arcing damage along As Gonno Rd.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 - GUALO RAI

■ Outage Time: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

□ Areas Affected: Gualo Rai (MacArthur Dr., Treaty Ln., Constitution Pl.)

■ Distribution Circuit: Kiya 3

□ Water Wells Affected: GR-4 and GR-5 (Water services to the following areas will be affected: Gualo Rai Road, Earhart Dr., MacArthur

Dr., Rabat Dr., Isley Pl., Historia Pl., and Espana St.)

□ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

□ Purpose: To install five spans of 3-phase primary lines and to relocate transformers and all necessary service drops along MacArthur Dr.

### FRIDAY, AUGUST 13, 2021 - AS MATUIS

■ Outage Time: 9am - 1pm

□ Areas Affected: As Matuis (Suito Dr., Kara Ct., Bayneta Dr., and Rakka Dr.)

■ Distribution Circuit: Feeder 7

□ Water Wells Affected: MQ10 and MQ-11B (Water services to the following areas will be affected: As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag)

□ Wastewater Facility Affected: None

□ Purpose: To replace a rotted primary power pole along Suito Dr.

For more information, contact the CUC Hotline at 236-4333 or monitor our Facebook page for the latest updates (<https://www.facebook.com/CommonwealthUtilitiesCorporation/>). (PR)



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MD: 'Rehear decision denying citizenship right in US territories'

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE  
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

EDWIN M. MENDOZA Petitioner	)	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 21-0261
Vs. )		
CARLOTA P. MARZAN Respondent	)	SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. Box 10001 PMB 433, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 23rd day of June, 2021.

/s/ Clerk of Court



## APP welcomes Kimberlyn King-Hinds as new president

The Association of Pacific Ports is very pleased to welcome Kimberlyn King-Hinds as our newly elected president.

Representing the Commonwealth Ports Authority in the Northern Mariana Islands, King-Hinds assumes the role following the tenure of Ian Marr from the Port of Nanaimo.

"I'm looking forward to leading the APP and working with everyone to improve our port community through sharing knowledge and resources to benefit the communities we serve," she said in accepting the position at the APP's annual general meeting on July 29, 2021.

As chair of the CPA board of directors, King-Hinds has had a distinguished career balancing the practice of law

in the CNMI and serving the public in various capacities. Currently in private practice addressing areas of family law, probate law and general civil litigation, King-Hinds is also currently the conflict counsel for the NMI Settlement Fund and legal counsel for the Tinian Mayor's Office.

King-Hinds also currently devotes numerous hours serving the people of the CNMI on

various government advisory boards and non-profit organizations.



King-Hinds

CPA was created in 1981 and tasked with managing and operating all the airports and seaports throughout the Northern Marianas. CPA is responsible for three airports (Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Tinian International Airport, and

Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport) and three seaports (Port of Saipan, Port of Tinian, and Rota West Harbor) on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

King-Hinds is joined by both new and returning port members to the executive committee. Before welcoming new members, the executive committee said farewell to Patsy Martin, who will be retiring as executive director of the Port of Skagit at the end of September; and Joe Stuveysant, president and CEO, Port of San Diego, who has

stepped down to focus on priorities at the port.

New to the committee this year is Stephen Ribuffo, director, Port of Alaska; Doug Hayes, executive director, Port of Columbia County; and Zoran Knezevic, president and CEO, Port Alberni Port Authority.

The full executive committee now consists of King-Hinds, president; Frank Colonna, Port of Long Beach, first vice president/treasurer; Shao-Liang Chen, Taiwan International Ports Corp., second vice president; Kim Puzey, Port of Umatilla, third vice president;

Ian Marr, Port of Nanaimo, past president.

The regional representatives are Dick Dodge, Port of Redwood City; Ying-Feng Chung, Taiwan International Ports Corp.; Bob Larson, Port of Benton; Steve Ribuffo, Port of Alaska; Doug Hayes, Port of Columbia County; Dorothy Harris, Port of Guam.

AT LARGE: James Bing II, Republic of Marshall Islands Port Authority; Chris King, American Samoa Port Administration; and Zoran Knezevic, Port Alberni Port Authority. (PR)

## Register for NMC's fall semester; financial aid available

Individuals who are seeking to advance their education or their professional careers can apply for and register for the Northern Marianas College's fall 2021 semester, which begins next week. Registration is ongoing through Aug. 13. The first day of classes is on Aug. 16, 2021.

Individuals who need financial aid can also apply for the Federal Student Aid program, which provides financial as-

sistance to those who meet certain eligibility criteria.

Applications for admission and other forms may be picked up at NMC's Office of Admissions & Records located in Building N at the NMC As Terlaje campus, or may be downloaded from [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). Supporting documents (i.e. transcripts from institutions previously attended, health evaluation form, and copy of a valid photo I.D.)

must be turned in within 60 calendar days of submitting the admission application.

New students are required to take the math and English placement tests. A schedule of the placement test dates can be found at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). Students can also make an appointment to take placement tests by calling 237-6774. New and readmitted students must also view the online student orientation program in

order to register for courses.

NMC offers several degree and certificate programs, including a bachelor of science degree in education (emphasis in elementary education, early childhood education, special education, or rehabilitation and human services), bachelor of science degree in business management (emphasis in accounting); associate of arts degree in business, associate of applied science degrees in business administration (emphasis in accounting, business

management, or computer applications), associate of arts in liberal arts (emphasis in education, health and physical education, social work, or pre-engineering), associate of science in nursing, natural resources management, associate of applied science in criminal justice, and hospital-ity management.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 237-6769/70/71/72 or visit [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu). (NMC)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### 4.9-magnitude quake in Pagan region

At 11:34am on Aug. 9, 2021, a report of a 4.9-magnitude earthquake occurred 18.970°N 145.505°E of the Pagan region in the Northern Marianas Islands. Currently, there are no tsunami warnings or advisories issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the CNMI EOC State Warning Point at 670-237-8000. (PR)

#### Nominate a UOG graduate for the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Awards

The University of Guam Office of Development and Alumni Affairs, in partnership with the UOG Alumni Association, announces the opening of nominations for the 2021 UOG Distinguished Alumni Awards. Nominations will be accepted until 4pm on Sept. 24.

Any individual who graduated from UOG earlier than 2008 is eligible to be nominated. Nominations may be submitted by any individual, independently or on behalf of a group or institution. Self-nominations will not be accepted.

A total of six awards will be given to deserving individuals—one from each of the university's schools and colleges and one to an alumnus/alumna who is serving or is retired from military service.

Winners will receive a plaque and special recognition at the UOG Distinguished Alumni Awards Ceremony. The event is scheduled for 6:30pm on Oct. 30 at Al Dente in the Hyatt Regency Guam.

For complete details on making a nomination, the nomination form, and the complete list of former winners, visit [www.uog.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni-awards.php](http://www.uog.edu/alumni/distinguished-alumni-awards.php). (PR)

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# Opinion

Hafa Adai!

## Saipan Tribune

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### EDITORIAL

## The CDC should keep the focus where it belongs

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is coming in for criticism over its most recent change of guidance on masks in the fight against COVID-19. Some of these complaints are justified, some unfair. The main thing is to keep the focus on what matters most—getting people vaccinated as quickly as possible. Confusion over the CDC guidance risks becoming a distraction from that overriding priority.

The agency's recommendations on masking changed abruptly at the end of last month. Previously officials had said that vaccinated people didn't need to wear masks because they were well protected against the virus and unlikely to spread it to others. They now recommend that fully vaccinated people "wear a mask in public indoor settings in areas of substan-

**As the science changes,  
the advice that's  
based on it needs to  
change as well**

tial or high transmission"—which, as the agency points out, is most of the country. Some jurisdictions promptly ordered masks to be worn in offices and other indoor settings regardless of whether some, most, or all of the people inside had gotten their shots.

The CDC should have been more cautious in May when it said that vaccination makes masks unnecessary. But officials shouldn't be criticized for changing their recommendations. Many aspects of COVID-19 and its variants still aren't fully understood, and the pandemic keeps evolving. As the science changes, the advice that's based on it needs to change as well.

New evidence, as the CDC rightly points out, suggests that the delta variant can be more readily passed along by vaccinated people. The risks posed by the new strain should be taken seriously. But getting a shot still greatly reduces the risk of infection, and the relatively small number of vaccinated people who do get infected typically suffer only mild symptoms. If you're vaccinated and the people around you are vaccinated, the danger posed by the delta variant is slight.

The new information argues for every effort to encourage and (within limits) require people to get their shots. But employers that do insist their staff get vaccinated don't need to tell them to stay masked as well. Imposing this requirement indiscriminately could be taken to mean that the vaccines don't work as hoped, that even a fully vaccinated staff is still in danger, and that "better safe than sorry" means postponing the return to life as normal, perhaps indefinitely, whether people are protected or not.

This approach might actually worsen vaccine hesitancy. In other words, "better safe than sorry" involves costs, and

See CDC on Next Page

MARGULIES  
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## This school year can't be a repeat of the last

As the delta variant of COVID-19 spreads, many parents are worried that their public schools will not fully reopen this fall. That would be a serious unforced error—and the mere possibility of it is evidence that America is not thinking rationally about risk.

Granted, the issue is complicated, with different risk factors and behavioral expectations for kindergartners compared to high-school students. And there are options between a pre-pandemic status quo ante and complete remote learning.

Still, it may be helpful to focus on one simple question (which does not yield a simple answer): How many student deaths are you willing to accept to have schools open again and operating at full capacity?

Is it 100? 300? 1,000? Or maybe zero? Might a few dramatic cases of "long COVID" be enough to halt reopening?

It is hard for a politician or school board member to raise their hand and say: "I am willing to let [fill in the number] of children die to get schools fully reopened." In other words, the very act of debating the question makes it hard to answer. And given the prominence of COVID as a news story, the question will invariably be considered in explicit and emotional terms.

Of course, with or without COVID, some number of children die at school. But it is surprisingly difficult to find out how many. In 2020, there were more than 50 million students in public elementary, middle or high schools, yet there is no systematic national database of student deaths at school. School shootings have claimed up to 75 deaths annually in recent years, and there are many other possible causes of death, such as traffic or sports accidents.

It's entirely plausible that a few hundred students die each year for reasons directly related to school attendance. If suicides induced by school bullying but occurring off campus are included, the number could be higher still. Some 4,400 young people in America commit suicide in a typical year, and surely many of those deaths are attributable, at least partially, to events at school.

Adding up all these admittedly indirect chains of causation, it's possible that school attendance leads to at least 2,000 deaths every year in the U.S. And those have nothing to do with COVID.

Fortunately, it is not customary in normal times to debate whether it is worth opening schools knowing that it could result in the death of perhaps 2,000 students. The true toll of opening

**By TYLER COWEN**  
Bloomberg Opinion

*Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and writes for the blog Marginal Revolution. His books include Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero.*



schools is unknown, much less debated, and if there is a discussion it is over school shootings, which ought to be preventable (or at least limited) by measures other than closing schools.

This "head in the sand" approach is highly imperfect. Still, it is preferable to panicking and closing the schools every year.

It is difficult to calculate how many children have died of COVID, but perhaps the best estimate comes from England, where it caused 25 deaths of people younger than 18 in the year ended in March. The final tally is certainly higher in the more populous U.S., but as of July seven states still were reporting zero COVID deaths among children. This recent estimate suggests 358 deaths, though it is based on only 43 states.

Yes, it is worth considering whether school reopenings will lead to unacceptably high levels of COVID in the non-school population. It is also worth pointing out that COVID is spreading very rapidly in states with low vaccination rates—without the schools playing a role. In any case, it does not justify focusing solely on the safety of children in discussions of school reopening.

Economists have long studied the tendency of people to assign more value to a "known life" than to a "statistical life." When a baby is trapped down a well, for example, many millions of dollars will be spent trying to save her. Her photo will appear on the evening news and on social media. Yet when it comes to saving lives in the aggregate, such as by installing more and better smoke detectors, there is only modest interest.

Right now too many Americans are trapped: Because the pandemic has been so dramatic for so many, every life looks like a known life rather than a statistical life. We all need to start working our way back to a bit more emotional distance.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## Not vaccinated? Here's how you could kill someone's father

**M**isinformation, or even mere scientific confusion, can cause a lot of trouble when it appears to come out of the Centers for Disease Control. That is what happened when a leaked CDC document helped send a misleading message that vaccinated people spread the new delta variant as readily as the unvaccinated.

This nugget quickly became ammunition for vaccine skeptics and was used against people like Art Krieg, a rheumatologist and biotech founder who has been passionate about promoting vaccines—even more so after his vaccinated 90-year-old father died on July 30 from COVID-19.

Krieg's specialty, rheumatology, deals with autoimmune diseases, and the immune system, and his company, Checkmate Pharmaceuticals, specializes in a product he discovered, called CpG DNA, which can be used in vaccines. I've spoken with him a number of times through the pandemic to understand the nuts and bolts of vaccine science.

Krieg took to Twitter to tell people of his father's death and plead the case that people should get vaccinated to protect others by lowering the amount of virus in circulation. He believes his vaccinated father might not have died if more people had accepted the shots.

Comments followed—mostly supportive ones, he told me. “But I had several people who said, ‘dude, vaccinated people spread the infection just as much ... learn the facts.’”

And this time the facts appeared to come from the CDC and not some conspiracy theorist's website.

So what are the facts? The scientific consensus holds that vaccines cut down on both illness and asymptomatic “cases” and so make the world safer for those who are still vulnerable due to age or health conditions.

Krieg said his father lived in a retirement home in central Pennsylvania, and got his Pfizer shots early in the year, as soon as they were available to people in his age group.

But he had an immune condition, called monoclonal gammopathy, which in addition to his advanced age made him vulnerable. He stayed home most of the time, but then in July, the perfect storm of events happened—a fall, then a trip to the emer-

gency room during a local surge in COVID cases.

The hospital was so busy, Krieg said, that it took five hours for his father to be seen. The COVID-19 diagnosis came a week later.

He doesn't argue that his father caught the virus from an unvaccinated person—though he thinks the odds are about 20 to 1 that he did. The bigger issue is that the odds of his father being infected would have been much lower and the hospital less crowded if more people in the area had been vaccinated.

“The key point is that if you're vaccinated, you're much less likely to become infected, and if you get infected, you're much less likely to infect other people because the infection is cleared more rapidly,” he said.

That's very different from the message the news media took away from the CDC's statement last week.

What the CDC actually said came from an internal document leaked to the Washington Post and quickly picked up by the New York Times. But that doesn't mean the contents represent a consensus view or any kind of message the CDC intended to broadcast. The public may wrongly think leaked material is more authentic because it wasn't intended for publication, but in science that's not necessarily the case.

The document said that the delta variant is as transmissible as chicken pox—a disease that may not be familiar to younger Americans. It also said that vaccinated people who get infected had viral loads that were as high as those in unvaccinated people. That doesn't necessarily mean they are as likely to transmit the disease as unvaccinated people but it's a worrisome sign.

The statements were based on an analysis done after an outbreak following the July Fourth weekend in Provincetown, Massachusetts. Part of that weekend was raw, wet and windy—better for indoor socializing than meeting on beaches. Provincetown is known as a gathering place for gay men and, as the New Yorker noted, the rate of HIV positivity is much higher than the national average. It's a condition that would likely reduce the efficacy of vaccines.

Scientists disagree on how to interpret the viral load measurements, but for the most part agree the vaccinated are still much

**By FAYE FLAM**

Bloomberg Opinion

*Faye Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and host of the podcast “Follow the Science.” She has written for the Economist, the New York Times, the Washington Post, Psychology Today, Science and other publications.*



less likely to get infected in the first place. Some experts, such as UC San Francisco infectious disease specialist Monica Gandhi, say that, if anything, breakthrough cases are overcounted because the COVID PCR tests will come up positive even if all that's present is inactivated virus left over after being wiped out by vaccine-induced immunity. She thinks many asymptomatic positive tests in vaccinated people aren't real infections.

The message some people are drawing from the Provincetown outbreak is that people should still all be wearing masks in public. That might help some, but the best messaging is transparent and honest. Krieg's father probably picked up the virus in a waiting room where masks were almost certainly required.

So relying on masks alone makes no sense when vaccines have proved to be safe and effective. The message that the shots don't protect others isn't supported by the data, but for the vaccine hesitant, it was appealing.

When, last June, podcaster Joe Rogan questioned whether young, healthy people should get the shots, the lesson the public health community should have learned was that they've done a terrible job explaining why people should get vaccinated even if they're not at high risk of severe COVID-19 and don't live with grandma or grandpa.

The reason isn't that complex: Getting vaccinated cuts down on the amount of virus in circulation and reduces the odds that people such as Art Krieg's father will die. That message is not only coherent but it's been consistently true since the vaccines became available. Contrary to the much-hyped “leaked” opinion of someone at the CDC, the war hasn't completely changed.

## Dealing with America's Olympic-sized debt problem

By **RACHEL GRESZLER** and **DAVID DITCH**  
THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

**I**f you've watched any of this summer's Olympic Games, you've likely marveled at the tremendous speed, strength, and precision of the world's best athletes.

It can be hard to grasp just how fast, strong, and agile these Olympians are. If you've ever run on a treadmill—probably in the 6- to 7- mph range—consider setting the treadmill to 13 mph and running for 26.2 straight miles.

Perhaps you've done a flip on a large and cushy trampoline. Now imagine doing that same flip on a solid and unforgiving 4-inch beam. Or picture yourself throwing a bowling ball across the length of a tennis court.

Yet it's easier to imagine all of that than to grasp the enormity of the U.S. federal debt and our government's recent spending spree. It's almost incomprehensible, at least without a little perspective.

Take this past year.

### CDC

From Page 8

a balance has to be struck. The best course is for employers and businesses to insist that staff and customers shouldn't share indoor spaces unless they've been vaccinated. Where this policy has been implemented, people who aren't especially at risk (due to being immunocompromised, for instance) shouldn't be required to wear masks—not, at any rate, given the current state of knowledge.

Stronger vaccine rules are the best response to the delta variant—and the CDC isn't helping if it lets that message get muddled.

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Most Americans realize the federal government spent a lot of money, including three rounds of so-called “stimulus payments” that most households received. But those \$3,200 worth of individual checks pale in comparison to total spending.

If ordinary Americans had spent like the federal government did in 2020, the median household that earns \$68,703 would have spent \$131,620 and put \$62,917 on the credit card, despite already being \$541,287 in debt.

As of 2021, the U.S. debt comes out to roughly \$220,000 per household. That's enough to buy about eight years' worth of groceries, gas, clothing, and housing for the typical household.

And even that figure doesn't include the unfunded liabilities of Social Security and Medicare. Without a significant reduction in the size of those programs, each household's total debt is actually over \$660,000. That's equal to the cost of a median family home, a new car, plus over five years' worth of a typical household's income.

However, even this massive a debt doesn't seem all that bad. Interest rates are low, and the federal government has had little problem seemingly borrowing into oblivion without consequence. (The same could be said of Greece before a financial crisis ensued.)

But our currently low interest rate payments—equal to over \$2,500 per household in 2021, or the cost of about 6 months' worth of groceries—are on track to rise to about \$6,400 per household in 2031. That's four months of mortgage payments.

And that's the equivalent of an interest-only mortgage. Those costs don't even begin to reduce the principal amount of debt.

While ordinary Americans aren't allowed to take out mortgages or open up new credit cards in their children's names, the federal government does this every day.

The share of debt for a child born this year was \$66,874. And that debt is on track to rise every year, reaching \$111,552 by the time they're 18 and either start working or head off to college. It will then hit \$191,768 by the time they're 30 and potentially

raising young children.

Fortunately, it's not too late to prevent the nation from going broke.

A cornerstone of success for Olympians is personal responsibility. Years of consistent training, healthy food and vigorous exercise combine to give athletes the physical and mental tools they need to rise to the top.

A similar mindset can work for the nation's financial woes.

Top athletes avoid junk food. Congress should cut out wasteful spending such as corporate welfare and excessive compensation for federal bureaucrats.

Olympians build a strong work ethic to maximize their progress. Congress should stop shirking their responsibilities by placing an increasing amount of federal spending on autopilot, and instead seek to reform programs like Social Security and Medicare that are on a path to bankruptcy.

Olympic medalists know how to prioritize what will get them to the podium. Congress should focus on core federal responsibilities and clear away countless programs that benefit narrow interest groups at the expense of the public good.

Iconic champions focus on the long game, learning from their mistakes and making the changes necessary to stay on top. Congress should recognize our looming debt disaster and step away from shortsighted spending plans.

Big problems like the unsustainable national debt won't be solved quickly or easily. However, in the same way that Olympic athletes reach new heights through steady improvement and healthy choices, Congress must begin to take fiscal responsibility seriously as soon as possible.

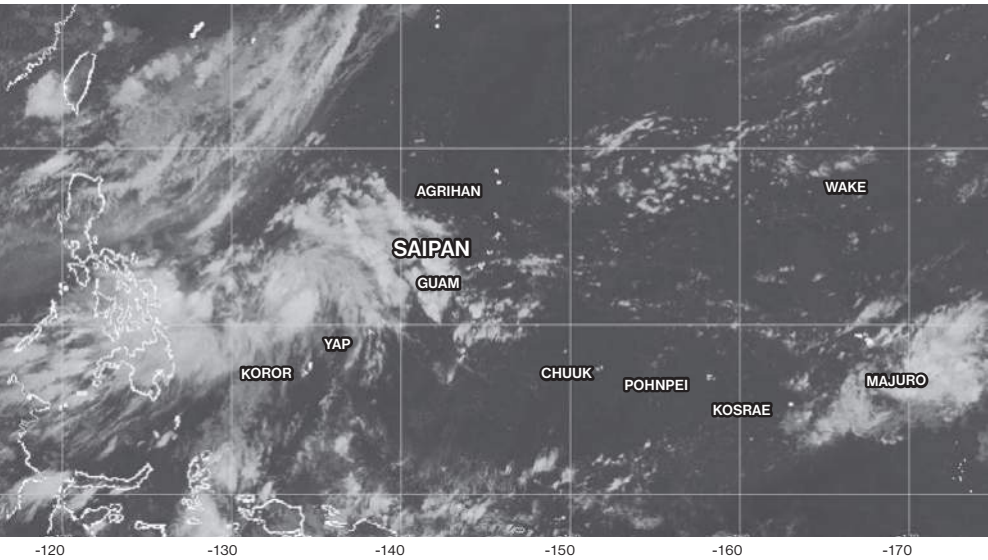
Otherwise, a Greece-like fate may await us.

*Rachel Greszler is a research fellow in economics at The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org). David Ditch is a researcher specializing in transportation issues for Heritage's Hermann Center for the Federal Budget.*



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		FRIDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph		Partly sunny with isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.	
86°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°	84°	76°



PICTURE TIME: 8:33 AM, MONDAY, AUGUST 9, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Radar and satellite indicates partly sunny skies and isolated showers moving through the Marianas Waters. GLD360 lightning data shows that a few of them are growing tall enough to become thunderstorms. The Ipan buoy reveals combined seas of 3 to 5 feet, composed of a trade swell from the east and a west swell which shows up from the south due to wrap-around. Both are around 2 to 3 feet, with 2 to 3 feet of wind waves also.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp)and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

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MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 77°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 82°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Tuesday	6:01 AM	6:43 PM
Wednesday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Thursday	6:01 AM	6:42 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	6:41 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	6:20 AM	7:27 PM	-
Tuesday	7:15 AM	8:10 PM	-
Wednesday	8:10 AM	8:51 PM	-
Thursday	9:04 AM	9:31 PM	-
Friday	9:59 AM	10:12 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	59° / 46°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	91° / 72°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	91° / 84°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	87° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 59°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	84° / 67°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Rain	61° / 48°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	88° / 81°	
New York	Showers	81° / 68°	
Osaka	Showers	88° / 79°	
Paris	Mostly Sunny	81° / 63°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	86° / 73°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	63° / 56°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	88° / 72°	
Tokyo	Rain	79° / 72°	
Washington, DC	Thunderstorms	83° / 70°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
2:16 AM	Low Tide	1.30	
7:12 AM	High Tide	2.02	
2:28 PM	Low Tide	-0.09	
9:23 PM	High Tide	2.01	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 1, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	2, 4, 5, 7	UA174	4:50am	5:50am	1, 3, 6
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 6	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	2, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	2, 5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:50am+1	2, 5 via Guam
UA117/183	6:30am	9:10pm	3, 6, 7 via Guam	UA184/174	10:25pm	8:11am+1	3, 6, 7 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	6:55pm	8:50pm	2, 5	UA184	9:50pm	4:00am+1	2, 5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	3, 6, 7	UA184	10:25pm	4:40am+1	3, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



# Business

## Weary US businesses confront new round of mask mandates

By DEE-ANN DURBIN  
AP BUSINESS WRITER

Businesses large and small, from McDonald's and Home Depot to local yoga studios, are reinstituting mask mandates as U.S. coronavirus cases rise. Bars, gyms and restaurants across the country are requiring vaccines to get inside.

After a largely mask-free summer, it's a reversal no one wanted to see, brought on by the fast-spreading delta variant and new guidance from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control. But business owners and workers say they will do what they can to keep their doors open and not slow the economic gains of the last few months.

"We've already been through the worst of the challenges when we shut down the indoors last year," said Brack May, the chef and owner of Cowbell, a New Orleans burger joint. "Let's just get ahead of the curve here."

May recently began requiring customers to show

their vaccine cards for indoor dining. He said he wants to protect his workers, who are required to be vaccinated but have young children at home, as well as his neighborhood, where some musicians recently contracted the coronavirus.

May expects that eventually, vaccine rules like his will be commonplace. Next month, New York City will start requiring vaccinations to enter restaurants, gyms and theaters.

But for now, customers are far more likely to encounter mask mandates. After lifting mask recommendations for fully vaccinated people in May, the CDC reversed course in late July, recommending masks for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in areas of higher transmission.

The shifting guidance has caused confusion over which rules to enforce and how. Walmart and Target, for instance, recently began requiring masks for employees—but not customers—in areas where



This July 28, 2021 file photo shows a sign on the door of a hair salon informing patrons that masks are required to be in the business in Kansas City, Mo. AP

virus transmission rates are high. McDonald's is requiring masks for both employees and customers. Home Depot's mask mandate is nationwide.

A handful of places, like Louisiana, the San Francisco Bay area and Las Vegas, are mandating masks indoors.

Many business owners

didn't wait for the CDC or their local governments before acting. In mid-July, Tamra Patterson reinstituted a mask mandate and reduced seating capacity from 200 to 65 at Chef Tam's Underground Cafe, the restaurant she owns in Memphis, Tennessee.

"I need every dollar and

dime and penny I can get, but if I don't have employees healthy, I don't have a business. If customers are sick, I have nothing," Patterson said.

Customers are generally receptive to the mask mandate, Patterson said. Only one has walked out.

PanTerra Gallery, a wom-

en's clothing store in Bisbee, Arizona, reinstated a mask mandate for customers a few weeks ago after watching cases climb nationwide.

"We're a tourist town, so it was just a matter of time before it reached us again," said Lisa Wines, a PanTerra employee. Most people are fine with the new mandate, she said, but some turn around and stomp out of the store.

Not every business supports the mandates. Basilico's Pasta e Vino, a restaurant in Huntington Beach, California, has railed against masks on social media. A sign on its door requires patrons to prove that they're unvaccinated.

Some workers also don't want to see masks return.

Dru W., a grocery employee in Houston who asked not to use his full name for fear of reprisals at work, said he was fully vaccinated months ago and enjoys the freedom it gives him to go without a mask. Few stores around him are enforcing the new CDC guidelines, he said, and he won't either.



In this June 28, 2021, file photo, Saudi Aramco engineers and journalists look at the Hawiyah Natural Gas Liquids Recovery Plant, which is designed to process 4.0 billion standard cubic feet per day of sweet gas, a natural gas that does not contain significant amounts of hydrogen sulfide, in Hawiyah, in the Eastern Province of Saudi Arabia. AP

## Saudi oil giant Aramco sees half-year earnings climb to \$47B

**DUBAI, United Arab Emirates** (AP)—Saudi Arabia's oil-producing company, Aramco, announced Sunday a net income of around \$47 billion for the first half of the year, double what it earned over the same period last year when the coronavirus grounded travel and pummeled global demand for oil.

This puts Aramco back squarely where it was before the pandemic struck and sunk earnings to \$23.3 billion in the first six months of 2020.

Aramco CEO Amin Nasser said the company's second quarter results "reflect a strong rebound in worldwide

energy demand."

"While there is still some uncertainty around the challenges posed by COVID-19 variants, we have shown that we can adapt swiftly and effectively to changing market conditions," he said.

The company also confirmed in its earnings report that its performance in the second quarter of 2021 "was primarily driven by higher crude oil prices." Benchmark Brent crude oil traded just over \$70 a barrel Friday, up from the \$45 a barrel range it hovered at this time last year.

The majority state-owned oil company said net income

for the second quarter was \$25.46 billion compared to the dramatic figure of just \$6.6 billion last year. This quarter's figure is slightly higher than the \$24.7 billion it earned in the second quarter of 2019, before the coronavirus.

Its second quarter earnings are also an improvement from the first quarter of the year, which raked in \$21.7 billion.

Saudi Arabia has led global efforts by major oil producers to curb output in order to keep prices from crashing as coronavirus uncertainty impacts consumer demand for crude. Under the agreement, the kingdom has been producing

between 8-9 million barrels per day since May 2020.

Aramco's financial health is crucial to Saudi Arabia's stability. Despite massive efforts by Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman to diversify the economy, the kingdom still depends heavily on oil exports to fuel government spending.

The company said it will uphold its commitment to pay out dividends of \$18.75 billion for the second quarter as part of its promise to pay \$75 billion in annual dividends. Most of that payout is to the company's primary shareholder, the Saudi government.

## Senators push infrastructure bill a step closer to passage

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Senators hoisted the \$1 trillion bipartisan infrastructure package over another hurdle late Sunday, a coalition of Democrats and Republicans pushing it closer to passage despite a few holdouts trying to derail one of President Joe Biden's top priorities.

The rare bipartisan momentum was holding steady, a reflection of the bill's popularity and the eagerness of senators to show voters back home they can deliver. One of the biggest investments of its kind in years, the package promises to unleash billions of dollars to upgrade roads,

bridges, broadband internet, water pipes and other public works systems undergirding the nation.

Senators easily overcame another 60-vote hurdle on a vote of 68-29. Final votes could drag into early Tuesday as a single GOP senator, Tennessee's Bill Hagerty, refused to relent on the mandatory debate time.

Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., stressed to colleagues that they could proceed the "easy way or the hard way," as the Senate slogged through its second consecutive weekend session.

## Palau's Ministry of Finance to conduct assessments

The Palau Ministry of Finance has engaged the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Services to conduct a series of assessments of the ministry's key decision-makers.

The assessments will be conducted by the Center for Board Certified Fiduciaries and are designed to measure specific leadership and stewardship behaviors that are known to have an impact on the quality of a decision-making process.

"We're committed to accelerating the leadership and stewardship development of our management team, all of whom will participate, including myself," said Minister Kaleb Udui Jr. "My expectation is for the assessments to help

us better appreciate and develop our skills in fiduciary and financial leadership."

The assessments are based on the groundbreaking research that's been conducted in the field of neuro-leadership. The studies demonstrate that there are certain people whose brains, partially through genetics but more so through development over the individual's lifespan, are better wired to lead.

"CBCF is excited to work with the Ministry of Finance," said Don Trone, chief executive officer of CBCF. "I have been instructing similar train-

ings in Micronesia on behalf of APAFS for a number of years and I've always enjoyed working with the region's leaders."

Udui said he found Trone's approach unique as it addresses the interrelatedness of fiduciary, steward, and leader characteristics for management. "We have shared our plans with other organizations in Palau who would also like to participate," he added.

Dr. Wilfred Leon Guerrero, chairman of the APAFS board of governors, said, "We are continually impressed by the desire of Palauan leader-

ship to improve stewardship, whether it be relating to the environment or fiduciary best practices and we welcome this synergistic partnership."

APAFS ([www.apafs.org](http://www.apafs.org)) is a Guam-based 501c3 association whose membership includes institutional investment funds throughout the Pacific Region. Its mission is to promote prudent stewardship through fiduciary education and to lead advocacy efforts on behalf of its membership.

CBCF is a public benefit corporation founded and funded by fiduciary advocates. It is affiliating with a leading university to provide a graduate-level certificate in fiduciary leadership, stewardship, and governance. (PR)



Udui



Leon Guerrero



# Nation

## Fauci hopeful COVID vaccines get full OK by FDA within weeks

**WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)**—The U.S. government's top infectious disease expert, Dr. Anthony Fauci, said Sunday that he was hopeful the Food and Drug Administration will give full approval to the coronavirus vaccine by month's end and predicted the potential move will spur a wave of vaccine mandates in the private sector as well as schools and universities.

The FDA has only granted emergency-use approval of the Pfizer, Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, but the agency is expected to soon give full approval to Pfizer.

The Biden administration has stated that the federal government will not mandate vaccinations beyond the federal workforce, but is increasingly urging state and local governments as well as businesses to consider such

mandates. Fauci, who is President Joe Biden's chief medical adviser, said "mandates at the local level need to be done" to help curb the spread of the virus.

"I hope—I don't predict—I hope that it will be within the next few weeks. I hope it's within the month of August,"

Fauci said of FDA approval of the vaccine. "If that's the case, you're going to see the empowerment of local enterprises, giving mandates that could be colleges, universities, places of business, a whole variety and I strongly support that. The time has come. ... We've got to go the extra step to get people vaccinated."

Fauci's comments come as the

Biden administration is weighing what levers it can push to encourage more unvaccinated Americans to get their shots as the delta variant continues to surge through much of the United States.

Biden recently approved rules requiring federal workers to provide proof of vaccination or face regular testing, mask mandates and travel restrictions. Biden is also awaiting a formal recommendation from Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin on potentially requiring U.S. troops to get vaccinated.

The administration has become more vocal in its support of vaccine mandates at a moment when high-profile companies have informed

employees that coronavirus vaccination requirements are in the works, and some localities have adopted or are contemplating vaccine requirements to dine indoors.

United Airlines informed its employees that they will need to be fully vaccinated by Oct. 25 or five weeks after the FDA grants full approval to one of the vaccines—whichever date comes first.

Disney and Walmart have announced vaccine mandates for white-collar workers, and Microsoft, Google and Facebook said they will require proof of vaccination for employees and visitors to their U.S. offices. Tyson Foods has also announced it will require all U.S. employees to get vaccinated by November.

There's also been pushback.

The U.S. Supreme Court last week was asked to block a plan by Indiana University to require students and employees to get vaccinated against COVID-19. It's the first time the high court has been asked to weigh in on a vaccine mandate and comes as some corporations, states and cities are also contemplating or have adopted vaccine requirements for workers or even to dine indoors.

Randi Weingarten, president of American Federation of Teachers union, said on Sunday that she personally supports a vaccine mandate for educators.

"As a matter of personal conscience, I think that we need to be working with our employers—not opposing them on vaccine mandates," said Weingarten, who estimated about 90% of AFT members are already vaccinated.

Dr. Francis Collins, director of the National Institutes of Health, on Sunday all but endorsed vaccine mandates, saying, "I celebrate when I see businesses deciding that they're going to mandate that for their employees."

"Yes, I think we ought to use every public health tool we can when people are dying," Collins said.

Fauci and Weingarten spoke on NBC's "Meet the Press," and Collins appeared on ABC's "This Week."



Fauci



### WASTELAND

A barren wasteland is left near the Bear River after the River Fire consumed thousands of acres of vegetation, Friday, Aug. 6, 2021 in Chicago Park, Calif. Firefighters are gaining the upper hand on the fast-moving River Fire that broke out Wednesday near the town of Colfax and destroyed nearly 90 homes and other buildings. More than 5,000 people were ordered to evacuate in Placer and Nevada counties, state fire officials said.

AP

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Canada begins allowing vaccinated US citizens to visit again

Canada on Monday is lifting its prohibition on Americans crossing the border to shop, vacation or visit, but the United States is keeping similar restrictions in place for Canadians, part of a bumpy return to normalcy from COVID-19 travel bans. U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents must be both fully vaccinated and test negative for COVID-19 within three days to get across one of the world's longest and busiest land borders. Travelers also must fill out a detailed on application on the arriveCAN app before crossing. Even though travelers have to register, the Canada Border Services Agency won't say how many people they are expecting to enter Canada for the reopening. But travelers should plan for the possibility

of additional processing time at the border. "CBSA will not compromise the health and safety of Canadians for the sake of border wait times," agency spokeswoman Rebecca Purdy said in a statement. While the Canada Border Services Agency won't say how many people it's expecting, Garnet Health, an Essex, Vermont-based company that offers same-day COVID-19 testing, has seen the number of tests it performs more than triple in recent weeks. (AP)

#### Man arrested in killings of 3 women on South Padre Island

**SOUTH PADRE ISLAND, Texas (AP)**—Police have arrested a 23-year-old man in the killings of three women at a home in the Texas resort community of South Padre Island. Officers were called to a "family disturbance" at a condominium in the island city

around 10 p.m. Saturday and arrived to find the women shot dead, police said in a statement. Police said the suspect fled the scene of the shooting but later turned himself in and was arrested in the neighboring community of Port Isabel. Police did not identify the man, who they said is being held on South Padre Island pending formal charges. The dead women were a 46, 47 and 65 years old and from the Houston area, police said. Police did not provide the women's names, did not immediately answer questions about a motive in the shootings or explain the relationships between the suspect and the women killed. South Padre Island is a community on a barrier island of the same name, off the southern coast of Texas near the Mexican border.

#### 6 killed in Alaska sightseeing plane

#### crash identified

**JUNEAU, Alaska (AP)**—Six people who were killed in a sightseeing plane crash were recovered and identified after crews initially struggled to reach the wreckage in southeast Alaska due to poor weather conditions. Alaska State Troopers identified the pilot and five passengers late Saturday following the crash Thursday. The aircraft went down as the pilot was returning the passengers to Ketchikan from Misty Fjords National Monument. The passengers who died were Mark Henderson, 69, and Jacquelyn Komplin, 60, both of Napa, California; Andrea McArthur, 55, and Rachel McArthur, 20, both of Woodstock, Georgia; and Janet Kroll, 77, of Mount Prospect, Illinois. The pilot was Rolf Lanzendorfer, 64, of Cle Elum, Washington. All five passengers were on

an excursion off the Holland America Line cruise ship Nieuw Amsterdam. Ketchikan is a popular stop for cruise ships visiting Alaska, and cruise ship passengers can take various sightseeing excursions while in port.

#### 1 Chicago officer killed, 1 wounded in traffic stop shooting

**CHICAGO (AP)**—A 29-year-old female police officer in Chicago was killed and another officer was seriously wounded in an exchange of gunfire during a traffic stop, officials said Sunday, the city's mayor later citing the shooting as a reason for Chicagoans to work together to stem violence. The officer killed Saturday night was identified as Ella French, according to a post on the Chicago Police Department's Facebook page Sunday evening. French's

death was the first fatal shooting of a Chicago officer in the line of duty since 2018 and the first female officer fatally shot on the job in 33 years. "We will never forget the true bravery she exemplified as she laid her life down to protect others," the department said of French on Facebook, adding that fellow officers will "grieve the loss of this hero." The department also requested support for French's "wounded partner, who is in the hospital fighting for his life." At a Sunday news conference, Mayor Lori Lightfoot urged Chicagoans to end the acrimony between ardent police proponents who say officers are hampered by overly burdensome rules and staunch critics who say officers act with impunity. "Stop. Just stop," she said. "This constant strife is not what we need in this moment."



## Asia

# Thousands jam Manila's vax sites over false news

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Thousands of people jammed coronavirus vaccination centers in the Philippine capital, defying social distancing restrictions, after false news spread that unvaccinated residents would be deprived of cash aid or barred from leaving home during a two-week lockdown that started Friday.

Officials placed Metropolitan Manila back under lockdown until Aug. 20, as a new spike in COVID-19 infections that health officials say could be due to the highly contagious delta variant threatens to overwhelm hospitals. Three other regions, including nearby Laguna province, were also placed under lockdown until Aug. 15.

Only authorized workers for essential businesses and residents on medical emergencies or food-buying errands

can venture out. An eight-hour curfew was imposed in the capital region starting at 8 p.m. and police checkpoints were set up in city boundaries.

A day before the lockdown, false news spread on social media that unvaccinated residents would either be prohibited from leaving their homes to go to work or deprived of 1,000 pesos (\$20) aid. It sent large crowds heading for vaccination centers in the cities of Manila, Las Pinas and Antipolo even without prior registrations.

Thousands lined up for several blocks in designated government centers and shopping malls to get the jabs, at times sparking arguments and complaints and snarling traffic.

In Manila alone, up to 22,000 people showed up outside vaccination centers before dawn. People descended

in groups and arrived in vans from nearby provinces, some "rowdily removing barricades," city officials said, citing police reports. Many were not registered under Manila's immunization program.

Police were forced to stop vaccinations in at least one of the shopping malls and asked the crowds to return home.

Critics partly blamed President Rodrigo Duterte for the confusion. The brash-speaking leader warned Filipinos last week that those who refuse to get vaccinated will not be allowed to leave their homes as a safeguard against the spread of the delta variant. He acknowledged that there was no specific law for such a restriction.

For people who refuse to receive COVID-19 vaccine, Duterte said, "well, for all I care, you can die anytime."

## Nagasaki marks 76th anniversary of bombing

**TOKYO (AP)**—Nagasaki on Monday marked the 76th anniversary of the U.S. atomic bombing of the Japanese city with its mayor urging Japan, the United States and Russia to do more to eliminate nuclear weapons.

In his speech at the Nagasaki Peace Park, Mayor Tomihisa Taue urged Japan's government to take the lead in creating a nuclear-free zone in Northeast Asia rather than staying under the U.S. nuclear umbrella—a reference to the U.S. promise to use its own nuclear weapons to defend allies without them.

Taue also singled out the United States and Russia—which have the biggest arsenals by far—to do more for nuclear disarmament, as he raised concern that nuclear states have

backtracked from disarmament efforts and are upgrading and miniaturizing nuclear weapons.

"Please look into building a nuclear-weapons-free zone in the Northeast Asia that would create a 'non-nuclear umbrella' instead of a 'nuclear umbrella' and be a step in the direction of a world free of nuclear weapons," Taue said as he urged Japan's government to do more to take action for nuclear disarmament.

At 11:02 a.m., the moment the B-29 bomber dropped a plutonium bomb, Nagasaki survivors and other participants in the ceremony stood in a minute of silence to honor more than 70,000 lives lost.

The Aug. 9, 1945, bombing came three days after the United States made the world's first atomic attack on

Hiroshima, killing 140,000. Japan surrendered on Aug. 15, ending World War II.

The mayor also called Japan's government and lawmakers to quickly sign the 2017 Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons that took effect in January.

Tokyo renounces its own possession, production or hosting of nuclear weapons, but as a U.S. ally Japan hosts 50,000 American troops and is protected by the U.S. nuclear umbrella. The post-WWII security arrangement complicates the push to get Japan to sign the treaty as it beefs up its own military while stepping up defense cooperation with other nuclear-weapons states such as Britain and France, to deal with threats from North Korea and China, among others.



Doves fly over the Statue of Peace during a ceremony at Nagasaki Peace Park in Nagasaki, southern Japan Monday, Aug. 9, 2021. AP

## World

# Once behind, Europe catches up to the US in vaccinations

**BRUSSELS (AP)**—Despite a sluggish start, the European Union's COVID-19 vaccination drive has caught up to that of the United States, where the slowdown of the country's once-vaunted campaign has contributed to the virus's deadly comeback.

In mid-February, less than 4% of people living in the 27-nation EU were at least partially vaccinated against the coronavirus, compared with nearly 12% in the U.S., according to Our World in Data, an online science publication connected to the University of Oxford.

Now the EU has surpassed the U.S. by that same measure, with some 60% of the bloc's residents receiving at least one dose, versus less than 58% of Americans.

In Italy, where roughly 63% of people 12 and older are fully protected, Premier Mario Draghi took a victory lap this past week.

"I said that I don't want

to celebrate successes, but it must be said that Italy has inoculated more doses per 100 inhabitants than France, Germany, the United States," he said as the country's vaccine verification program went into effect Friday.

People in Italy must now show proof they have had at least one vaccine dose, recovered from COVID-19 or recently tested negative for the virus if they want to dine indoors, use gyms or go to concerts, theaters, museums and tourist sites such as the Colosseum.

European authorities attribute success in Italy and elsewhere to nationalized health care and a history of public confidence in the safety of immunizations.

The EU's slow process for approving the vaccinations set the bloc back at the beginning, but that is now paying dividends because it is instilling more confidence in the rapidly developed for-

mulas, said Dr. Peter Liese, a European Parliament member from Germany.

While the U.S. and Britain issued emergency authorizations of vaccines to get shots into arms quickly, the EU went through the longer process of granting full approvals, putting it weeks behind.

"I am convinced that we have a good argument to explain to people still hesitating that the vaccine was properly tested in Europe," Liese said recently. "Now it becomes clear that not only the pace of vaccination in the first months but also the long-term strategy is important."

The turnaround in Spain has been pronounced. In mid-April, when nearly a quarter of all Americans were fully vaccinated, only 7% of Spaniards were similarly protected, according to Our World in Data. Now, nearly 60% of Spain's roughly 47 million people are fully vaccinated, while about half the U.S. is.



Flames approaching at Gouves village on the island of Evia, about 185 kilometers (115 miles) north of Athens, Greece, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. AP

## Fire devours Greek island's forests

**PEFKI, Greece (AP)**—Pillars of billowing smoke and ash turned the sky orange and blocked out the sun above Greece's second-largest island Sunday as a days-old wildfire devoured pristine forests and encroached on villages, triggering more evacuation alerts.

The fire on Evia, an island of forested mountains and canyons laced with small coves of crystalline water, began Aug. 3 and cut across the popular summer destination from coast to coast as it burned out of control. Scores of homes and businesses have been destroyed and thousands of residents

and tourists have fled, many escaping the flames via flotillas that even operated in the dark of night.

The blaze is the most severe of dozens that broke out in the wake of Greece's most protracted heat wave in three decades, which sent temperatures soaring to 45 degrees Celsius (113 F) for days, creating bone-dry conditions.

"It's already too late, the area has been destroyed," Giannis Kontzias, mayor of the northern Evia municipality of Istiaia, lamented on Greece's Open TV. He was one of several local officials and residents who took to Greek TV

networks to appeal for more firefighting help, particularly from water-dropping planes and helicopters.

Evacuation orders were issued Sunday for four villages in northern Evia, including Pefki, but many residents refused to leave, hoping to save their properties.

In dramatic scenes Sunday afternoon, fast-moving flames had encroached on the seaside village of Pefki, burning trees on the fringes and entering the houses' yards. Panicked residents raced with water tanks, hoses and branches in a seemingly futile effort to extinguish the flames.



## Overdrive

By MARK PHELAN  
DETROIT FREE PRESS

Scenes of vehicles immobilized by flash floods have been commonplace this soggy summer in southeast Michigan.

As electric vehicles become common—including SUVs people buy expecting greater capability than a low-slung car—questions about how they deal with water become inevitable. Do they keep running? Are the occupants in danger of electrocution? Do the batteries short out and charge the water around them?

I had two recent experiences with electrified vehicles and water that shed some light on the topic.

First some basic safety principles:

■ Never drive into water if you don't know its depth. This includes highways and limited access roads that are below the surrounding ground or have retaining walls.

■ Never drive or walk into fast-moving floodwater. It may still be rising, and even a shallow flow can sweep you off your feet or carry your vehicle downstream.

■ If your vehicle stalls, abandon it immediately and seek higher ground.

■ Water can hide rocks, curbs, debris and other obstacles that will damage or disable your vehicle.

### Hyundai Kona EV stays high and dry

One drive was born of necessity. The other was planned, done under controlled conditions.

Driving home after a tasty crispy chicken don rice bowl dinner at Ima in Midtown Detroit in an electric Hyundai Kona compact SUV, I ran into an unforeseen storm that

# Can electric vehicles handle flash floods, high water? I gave it a try



The 2021 Jeep Wrangler Rubicon 4xe.

STELLANTIS/TNS

dumped 3 inches of water on some neighborhoods in less than an hour.

The electric Kona only comes with front-wheel drive. It's no off-roader, but its 6.7 inches of ground clearance is more than most sedans offer, though not nearly as high as the water that overflowed medians and sidewalks around Woodward Avenue in northern Detroit and Ferndale.

The Kona's wipers struggled with the downpour. I could see water more than grille-high on nearby vehicles, some of which had apparently stalled.

I slowed to avoid creating a wake, crossed my fingers and kept moving, sticking to the crown of the road, hunting high ground and watching for upwelling water that might warn of a blown manhole cover or storm grate.

I later measured some landmarks I noted during the storm. The water was nearly 2 feet deep in places. I avoided the worst, but when I got home, I saw what appeared to be a high water mark on the SUV's doors.

The 201-hp Kona's high-voltage 64kWh lithium-ion batteries are mounted in its floor pan. They undoubtedly got heavily splashed, possibly submerged, but the EV showed no ill effects and ran like a top the next day.

Hyundai makes no promises about the Kona EV's performance in conditions like that, and wouldn't make anyone available to talk about its engineering. But the little SUV came through the impromptu soaking fine.

Hyundai has recalled 82,000 Kona EVs around the world for battery fires.

### Wrangler 4xe PHEV tested to the limit

Jeep, on the other hand, can't talk enough about what engineers did to help the new Wrangler 4xe plug-in hybrid stay operational in up to 30

inches of water.

"We're taught water and electricity don't mix," Wrangler 4xe chief engineer Mike Wiacek told me with a laugh. "Mother Nature isn't going to change just because we're using a new technology in cars, but water fording equal to a (gasoline-powered) Wrangler was a necessity when we developed the 4xe."

The 4xe, which recently went on sale, can indeed go through up to 30 inches of water, as I learned when I tested one in a snake-infested Texas slough earlier this year.

"There's lots of high-voltage components within the frame" well below the 30-inch benchmark, Wiacek said. "We had to make sure they could survive, water, rocks, snow and being caked with mud."

Simply withstanding a

dunking in standing water wasn't enough.

"What if the owner needs to use high-pressure water to wash mud off high-voltage connectors and battery modules? We waterproofed it all for high-pressure water," Wiacek said.

Among other tests, engineers put the 4xe through 16 hours of wetting with the roof off.

If the system still somehow ingests water and short circuits, software cuts voltage to the affected area.

"We need to protect occupants and first responders," Wiacek said. "If we sense an area is compromised, we seal it off from high voltage. We shut the system down in a choreographed way." The shutdown takes milliseconds from the moment a short is detected.

In addition, there's no direct link between the high-voltage battery and the Wrangler's chassis, giving the electricity no route to occupants.

Stellantis engineers applied the same controls to the Chrysler Pacifica minivan plug-in hybrid, he said.

## Toyota reports record profit amid pandemic, keeps forecasts

**TOKYO (AP)**—Toyota reported Wednesday a record 897.8 billion yen (\$8.2 billion) profit for the fiscal first quarter, underlining the Japanese automaker's resilience even amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Toyota Motor Corp.'s April-June profit zoomed more than five-fold from 158.8 billion yen the same period a year earlier.

Quarterly sales soared 73% from the previous year to 7.94 trillion yen (\$73 billion), also a record for the maker of the Prius hybrid and Lexus luxury models.

Worries remained, such as the ongoing shortage of semiconductors and the rising costs of materials, according to Toyota.

Such concerns were the reason why Toyota said it kept its forecasts unchanged for the full fiscal year through March 2022, at a 2.3 trillion yen (\$21 billion) profit, and 9.6 million vehicles in global retail sales.

That's up from nearly 9.1 million vehicles Toyota sold during the fiscal year ended March 2021. When including sales of Daihatsu and Hino

group companies, Toyota expects to sell 10.55 million vehicles, up from 9.9 million vehicles the previous fiscal year.

Toyota said, on the plus side, some costs came down during the pandemic because of changes such as decreased travel and a move to online meetings.

Vehicle sales projections were hurt by parts shortages that crimped production, meaning that, once such problems were solved, vehicles sales could beat the forecasts, according to Toyota.

## Quick fix for clogged sunroof drain tubes

**Q:** Regarding the topic of clogged sunroof drain tubes, I have found a quick and easy way to clean them using weed-whacker trim line. It is long and flexible enough to navigate the entire drain tube yet firm enough to get the job done by pushing any blockage out without damaging anything in the process. And bonus, the trim line is still usable in the weed-whacker.

**A:** Good idea. I suggest using a stout line like 0.060 diameter, but 0.095 is easier to find. Or, just what you've got.

**Q:** In a recent column you correctly advised a reader that it is much better to use the brakes to slow down than to downshift. But you neglected to include the most important reason for using the brakes: safety! When you downshift and slow, the driver behind you gets no warning about your change in speed. Braking activates the brake lights.

**A:** As a motorcyclist, I highly agree. Bikers like to downshift and, on a group ride, the effects of no brake lights can ripple through the group startling the following riders.

**Q:** We have always had older vehicles and always had our repairs done at a very nice reliable small repair shop near our home. Well, we took a big step and purchased a new 2021 vehicle! We are wondering if we need to have this new car serviced at the dealership, due to all the high tech stuff in

this vehicle or would our old reliable shop have the technology to do any work needed on our vehicle?

**A:** You may have your vehicle serviced anywhere you wish, but ask if the shop has the equipment to handle your make and model. Having all the special tools, especially electronic diagnostic tools, can get expensive. By the way, work done by an independent shop will not void your warranty including installing aftermarket parts. Just be sure to save all your receipts and details of any parts used.

**Q:** I appreciate the info you recently gave about tire age/storage. You mentioned the in-use wear starting when the tires are first driven. At 71, I don't put a lot of mileage on my tires (less than 1,000 during the pandemic) so wear is not an issue. Assuming I don't trade cars (I have a Honda Accord with less than 60,000 miles) and I live as long as my parents did (mid 80s) my tires are likely to be on my car a long time. At what time interval do I need to change tires even if they have virtually no tread wear?

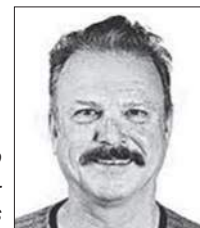
**A:** There are no regulations from the Federal Department of Transportation or NHTSA regarding tire age. However, carmakers suggest replacing them after six years. Tire rubber does age and may affect performance, handling and safety for spirited drivers, but I would not worry about tires driven

## MOTORMOUTH

By BOB WEBER

Tribune News Service

Bob Weber is a writer and mechanic who became an ASE-certified Master Automobile Technician in 1976. Send questions along with name and town to motormouth.tribune@gmail.com.



locally at reasonable speeds.

**Q:** I found the recent inquiry about cars being wrapped with advertising. One means of relief may be that many municipalities have zoning ordinances that prohibit vehicular or any kind of off-premises advertising, especially in residential neighborhoods. So B.M., of Jefferson Park, Illinois, should consult with the town's code or zoning department for possible enforcement.

**A:** Good point. There are numerous local regulations, not only about advertising, but prohibitions about parking RVs in certain areas, prohibition about parking commercial vehicles on residential streets, parking on lawns and more. Even if there are no local government rules, many homeowner associations are very strict about such issues. Yep, it's worth checking.



## Life & Style

# With coronavirus rising, 'The Suicide Squad' opens softly

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Moviegoing, once expected to be closer to semi-normal levels by now, continues to be battered by the pandemic, the delta variant of the coronavirus and in-home streaming. The latest casualty: James Gunn's "The Suicide Squad," a critically acclaimed, carnage-ridden would-be smash that disappointed with \$26.5 million in estimated ticket sales.

The Warner Bros. film, which was released simultaneously on HBO Max, could claim one pandemic record: the top R-rated opening. But "The Suicide Squad," featuring the "Guardians of the Galaxy" director's first DC Comics film, had seemed poised to be a bigger hit—and may have been if the delta variant wasn't keeping a lot of moviegoers home.

Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros., acknowledged the recovery is taking longer than anyone hoped.

"We always knew the ramp-up would be two steps forward



This image released by Warner Bros. Pictures shows, from left, David Dastmalchian, John Cena, Idris Elba and Daniela Melchior in a scene from "The Suicide Squad." AP

and one step back," Goldstein said. "But when we're living it, it's not great."

As recently as a month ago, the outlook for movie theaters was brightening. Marvel's "Black Widow" set a pandemic-best mark with a \$80 million domestic debut. Now, that movie's hybrid release is the focus of a bitter legal battle between star Scarlett Johansson

and the Walt Disney Co. that has larger ramifications for the economics of big-budget movies in the streaming era.

More importantly, COVID cases in the United States have since rocketed—from a few thousand daily infections to more than 100,000. That has led some to curtail indoor activities and some states to consider changing

regulations. New York is planning to make vaccination a requirement for indoor dining and other venues, including movie theaters.

"I think avid moviegoers have returned to theaters, and they show up first night and through the weekend," Goldstein said. "But what we're not seeing is the casual moviegoers—those who were inter-

ested and would have gone in a pre-pandemic context. Right now, they're not quite there."

The result for "The Suicide Squad"—strong reviews, underwhelming opening—is a kind of inverse to 2016's "Suicide Squad," which was lambasted by critics but also made a lot of money. The film, directed by David Ayer (who has since called the film "not my cut"), opened with \$133.7 million in the U.S. and Canada, eventually grossing \$745 million worldwide.) In part because of fan backlash to DC titles like "The Suicide Squad," Gunn was brought in to set a more irreverent tone.

Gunn's movie, a sequel-reboot that returns some cast members but not others, drew good reviews (92% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes), already has a series spinoff starring John Cena upcoming and was largely endorsed by moviegoers with a B+ CinemaScore. The film stars Idris Elba, Margot Robbie, Viola Davis and Joel Kinnaman. Not back: Will Smith or Jared Leto.

"The Suicide Squad" cost about \$185 million to make, but the current state of the box office doesn't offer much of a chance for profitability for movies at that scale. Warner didn't release any streaming or subscription data related to the "The Suicide Squad," but Goldstein said that every release has seen "a proportional response" on HBO Max that correlates to its popularity in theaters. If it's a hit in theaters, it's a hit on streaming.

Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore, said that while he believes day-and-date releases can hurt a movie's box office, the dominant variable is still the pandemic.

"Today is a very different marketplace than it was even just a few weeks ago, which makes any kind of long-term proclamations as to what's going on with the movie industry or movie theaters very challenging," Dergarabedian said. "The desire for going to the movies is there, but the marketplace is in flux."

## Actor Julie Bowen, sister help woman who fainted at park

**MOAB, Utah (AP)**—A woman who fainted and hit her head on a rock after stopping to rest in Utah's Arches National Park woke up to hear a familiar voice and wondered if she might be watching television.

Minnie John of Oradell, New Jersey, then questioned whether she might know the woman who was with the doctor helping her, or if she

was famous, according to a post on Facebook.

"Her sister the doctor asked me to guess and I told her I just hit my head, I can't remember. She said smiling 'Modern Family' and I said of course!," John recounted about how she finally recognized Julie Bowen from her role on the long-running comedy series.

In her Aug. 3 post, John

said she had been on a "bucket list" trip to Arches and hiking to see Delicate Arch, a four-story sandstone arch perched on the rim of a deep red rock canyon, for an hour and a half when she could not go any farther. She told her husband and son to go ahead as she rested along the trail, her head in her hands.

Julie Bowen and her sister Annie told her that their

guide had seen her fall face forward on a rock, with her glasses breaking her fall, she said. They cleaned her up and gave her electrolytes as Julie Bowen assured her she was going to be OK, John said. They used her phone to call her son and some people selflessly ran ahead to find him, about 20 minutes ahead, to let them know what had happened, John said.

John said she fractured her nose and received five stitches later at the hospital. She expressed gratitude to God for sending people to help her.

"Daredevil or dumb as can be, I still consider this trek up the mountain as one of my proudest achievements in my life. Sometimes you need to take those chances in life to live to experience heights and depths," she wrote.



Bowen

## Husband's alcoholism now pits him against teenaged son

**DEAR ABBY:** Sometimes when my husband, "Tom," drinks he becomes volatile. A month ago, after being out drinking, he came home very late. I made a joke that upset him and he started yelling and calling me names. I have learned that when Tom gets like that, it's best to just agree with him.

On that occasion, it didn't work, and he began breaking things. Our teenage son "Eric" was so scared he called the police. When the police arrived they told my husband who had placed the call and interviewed each of us separately. After they left, Tom called Eric ugly names, told him he was done with him and hasn't spoken to him since. If they are in the same room, my husband won't look at him or talk to him.

I don't know how to fix this. I worry about how this will affect Eric. He tries to avoid his dad now and goes to his room when he hears his dad come home.

**BAD BEHAVIOR IN TEXAS**

**DEAR BAD BEHAVIOR:** Your husband may blame his abusive outbursts on his drinking, but as you can see, he's well aware of what he did after he sobers up. Eric was right to call the police because, after "breaking things," his father could have gone after you.

This unfortunate situation will not improve until Tom faces the fact that he's a problem drinker, swears off the sauce and gets help. By not insisting upon it, you have cast

### DEAR ABBY

By **ABIGAIL VAN BUREN**  
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



yourself in the role of his enabler. For your sake and Eric's, draw the line. (The healthiest person in your household appears to be your son.)

Talk to Eric. Let him know he did nothing wrong. There are programs for families of alcoholics that can be accessed by visiting [al-anon.org/info](http://al-anon.org/info). Attending Al-Anon meetings would be beneficial for you and Eric, regardless of what your husband decides about drying out.

■ ■ ■ ■

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband's daughter has "borrowed" money from us on countless occasions when she couldn't pay her bills. She has never made an effort to repay it. She was recently included in someone's will, and the bequest was sizable. Prior to receiving her inheritance, she had asked to borrow money to buy three major appliances. Because it would

be several months until the estate would be settled and it was a large sum that we really couldn't afford to lose, we required her to sign a promissory note. She mailed us a check when her funds arrived, but now she's cut off all communication with us! We have tried to resume normal relations with her to no avail. Should we keep trying?

**IGNORED IN THE EAST**

**DEAR IGNORED:** So your husband's daughter is offended because you made her sign a promissory note before handing out (more) money you couldn't afford to lose? In light of the fact that she hasn't repaid you for all the other monies you helped her out with when she needed it, what you did was sensible.

Rather than accept that in the past she has behaved irresponsibly, which is why you asked for the guarantee of repayment, she's blaming YOU?! Instead of beating your heads against a stone wall trying to have a relationship with your husband's deadbeat daughter, you would be better off biding your time until she once again needs something.

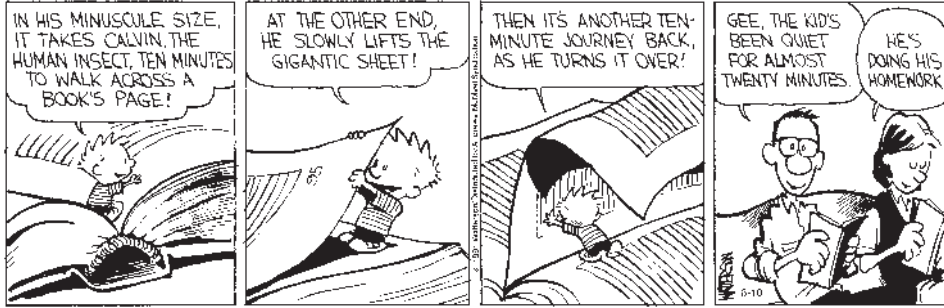
Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

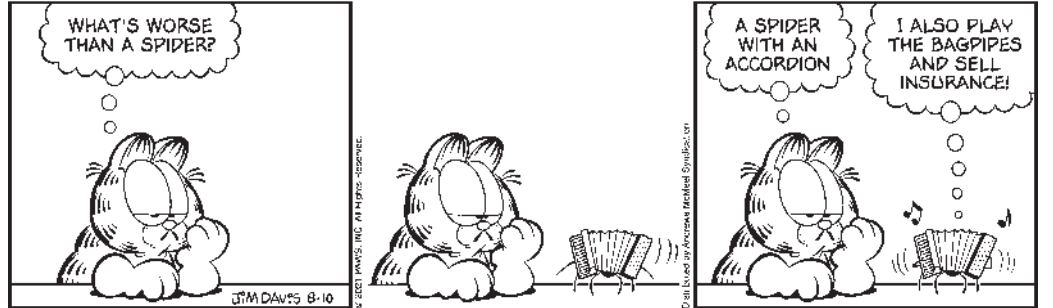
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



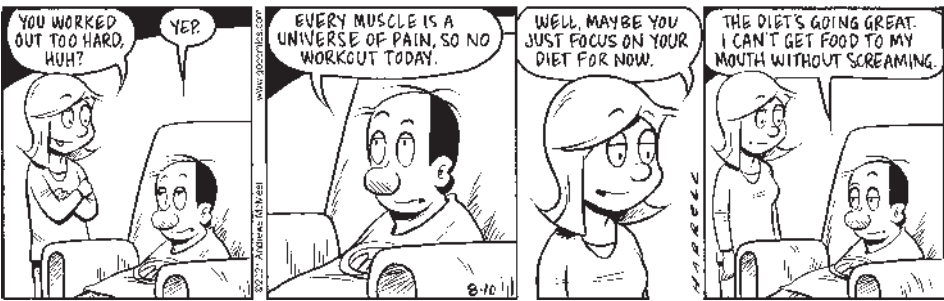
## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Detail, briefly  
5 Soak (up)  
8 Cushy  
12 Present-day "carpe diem"  
13 Work with  
14 Norway's capital  
15 Pinot —  
16 Logger's power tool  
18 "Grey's Anatomy" actress Wilson  
20 Remains  
21 Before  
22 Unpaid TV ad  
23 Fizzy drinks  
26 Painter Marc  
30 Debtor's letters  
31 Wee bit  
32 Service charge  
33 Book division  
36 Tennis great Evert  
38 Epoch

**DOWN**

1 Harmonization  
2 Milne  
3 Lamb alias  
4 Eye part  
5 Bolivian city  
6 Fed. workplace monitor  
7 Pod dweller  
8 "In America" writer Susan  
9 Greek mountain  
10 Chef Bobby  
11 Pulls, as a camper  
17 Actress Rae  
19 ER workers  
22 Prof's degree  
23 Bracketed word  
24 La-la lead-in  
25 "Levi-tating" singer Lipa  
26 Train unit  
27 Uganda's cont.  
28 Floral garland  
29 Guitar master Paul  
31 Chai, e.g.  
34 Allow  
35 Chicago paper, briefly  
36 Spy org.  
37 Employee's greeting  
39 Whiner's lament  
40 Play parts  
41 Grand over org.  
42 50-and-  
43 Tranquil  
44 "Small-ville" girl  
45 Rainbow fliers  
48 Sleep phenom

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 8-10

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jacob Latimore, 25; Josh Gates, 44; Antonio Banderas, 61; Rosanna Arquette, 62.

**Happy Birthday:** Productivity is the name of the game, not unnecessary change. How you go about getting ahead physically, emotionally and financially will make a difference regarding the influence you have on your life and the lives of others. Think outside the box, and take the path with the least resistance. If you use intelligence and insight, you will overcome any setback you encounter. Your numbers are 7, 18, 23, 27, 34, 38, 45.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** You'll get the most out of what you do for others. Speak up, offer suggestions and call on people you know can help you get your plans moving in a positive direction. Words matter, so be precise. Present facts and negotiate passionately. ★★

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Get things done on time. Too much talk and not enough action will make it difficult to gain support. Micromanage every step you want to take, and you'll make a lasting impression. Take a moment to share something special with someone you love. ★★★★★

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Think matters through, and talk with someone you respect. Getting a well-rounded view before you make your next move will give you the confidence to forge ahead without hesitation. Your ability to influence others will encourage success. ★★

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Resisting change will hold you back. Engage in chatter about what's happening. Information will put your mind at ease and make a transition more manageable for you to accept. Look for the positive in whatever situation you face, and you will prosper. 4 stars

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Refuse to let anyone stifle your plans or come between you and someone who has always supported you. Indulgence will set you back. Consider every angle, ask questions and verify the information. Find a unique way to save. ★★

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** Take pride in what you do. Accept responsibility and honor your promises. The returns for quality work and living up to your word will be surprisingly worth every minute you spend perfecting what you do and how you live and treat others. ★★

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Do what you can to make a difference. The suggestions you make and the help you offer will bring about changes that will make your life easier. A chance to engage in a conference or event will lead to new friendships and beginnings. ★★

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Move in a direction that suits you. You'll miss your chance to create a solid position for yourself if you follow someone else. It's time to look out for No. 1 and engage in what's best for you. Live life your way. ★★

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Watch what others do, and stand up for your rights. You'll be offered false insight into what's happening with a friend or relative. Get the facts before you offer to help

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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someone who is in the wrong. Honesty is the best policy. ★★

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** You'll find a unique way to increase your money, improve your health or combat someone trying to take advantage of you. An emotional shift will help you improve the way you live and your relationships with loved ones. ★★★★★

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Don't lose sight of what you are trying to accomplish. You'll find the right balance to help you take advantage of an opportunity without dismantling what you've worked so hard to build. A steady pace forward will lead to stability. ★★

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Be creative, and you'll find a way to please others. Work alongside someone who gets what you are trying to do and shares your beliefs. What you achieve will change the way others treat you. A personal adjustment looks promising. ★★

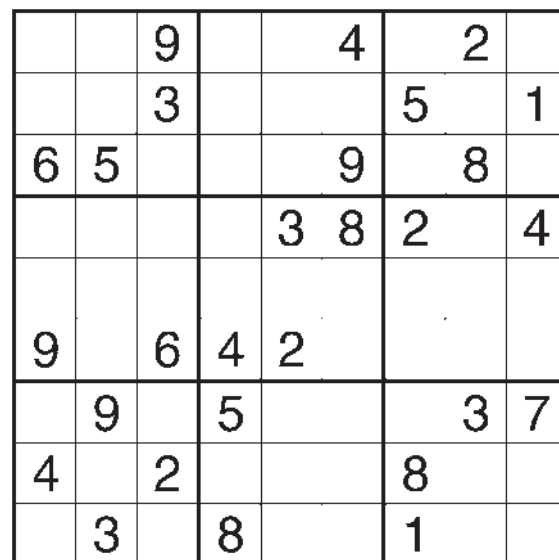
**Birthday Baby:** You are meticulous, inquiring and passionate. You are hardworking and energetic.

★ Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ★★ You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ★★★ Focus and you'll reach your goals. ★★★★★ Aim high; start new projects. ★★★★★ Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## SUDOKU

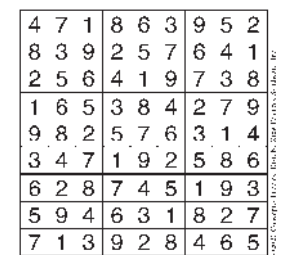
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer



Difficulty Level ★★ 8/10  
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## WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

NAKED SHORTING IN FINANCE

Solution: 6 letters

A N E R U S S E R P R I M E E  
S N O W N E R B S P S E E F X  
S T T I S L M A R K E T L R I  
E A N I T L E O E O C E A T S  
T C R E C I H L C K S O S K T  
T C O M M I S S I O N E T T R  
L O S S B T P O R F R A R S A  
E U W I R G S A P E O A B E N  
M N T O R N R E T H D R G D S  
E T H O R I E N V E A N P E F  
N S W Y S R I E R N A N C A E  
T T R K I A O S U H I T T L R  
H S H A R E S B C L O D R O P  
R E D N E L L X D R A W E R M  
S E N I L C E D E L I V E R S

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8/10  
Account, Anticipate, Bank, Borrow, Clearing, Commission, Deal, Declines, Delivers, Drop, Exchange, Exist, Fees, Growth, Interest, Investments, Lender, Loss, Market, Owner, Phantom, Position, Pressure, Price, Prime, Profile, Prohibit, Reward, Rise, Risk, Sale, Sector, Self, Sell, Settlement, Shares, Short, Stocks, Traders, Transfer, Value, Yield  
Yesterday's Answer: Vineyards  
To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volumes 47 through 62 order on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

## STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.



# After Tokyo, Olympians hanker for 2024 Games



**TOKYO (AP)—** They'll always have Paris.

That thought, full of promise, has been a life-buoy for athletes to cling to as they coped, as best they could, with thickets of restrictions at the pandemic-hit Tokyo Games that severely crimped their Olympic experience — and left some hungry for more.

Barred from bringing family and friends with them to Japan, playing in empty arenas and not allowed to sight-see in Tokyo, some athletes found themselves day-dreaming about the French capital's Olympic rendezvous in 2024. If the coronavirus is tamed by then, the Paris Games could quickly become the party games. Already, there is palpable pent-up eagerness among athletes to make up for Tokyo and its disappointments.

"When Paris happens, I'll be like, 'OK, wow, like this is a whole new energy. This is it,'" said U.S. skateboarder Mariah Duran. "Maybe I had to have the appetizer before the whole meal."

For now, Paris officials say they're betting that the pandemic will be over when their turn comes. "Normally, we'll be able to party," the city's mayor, Anne Hidalgo, said Sunday on French TV when Tokyo passed the baton.

But if the coronavirus is still ruining the best-laid plans, then Tokyo has served up a model of how to hold an Olympics even as infections are surging. It pared the games down to their most essential ingredient: competition. No spectators. No city-wide partying. Very little mingling between Olympians and their hosts. Paris officials were watching closely and say that while they hope for the best, they'll also plan for the worst.

Toughest for many Tokyo Olympians was not being accompanied to Japan by loved ones who had no choice but to watch them compete on TV. American surfer Carissa Moore said it was "a huge challenge" being separated from her husband and his "strong constant voice."

Moore ultimately found her footing to win gold in surfing's debut as an Olympic sport. As painful as separation was, Tokyo was also a learning experience for the Hawaiian. "I'm very proud of myself, to be here and stand on my own two feet," she said.

Traveling without her parents for the first time at age 17, U.S. skateboarder Brighton Zeuner compensated by staying closely connected even during her competition, video-calling her father from the Olympic skate bowl "between



People gathered near the National Stadium to watch the firework display launched during the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Olympics in Tokyo, Japan, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021. AP

every single run I did."

To limit infection risks, organizers also asked athletes to arrive in Tokyo no earlier than five days before competing and leave within 48 hours of being done — a rapid turnaround that further truncated the Olympic experience.

Belgian skateboarder Axel Cruysberghs, who competed in week one, and his skateboarding wife Lizzie Armanto, who competed in week two, passed each other like ships in the

night. As she took off for Tokyo, his flight back to their home was 20 minutes from landing.

"It worked out for our puppy," she joked. But it wasn't the fairy-tale Olympics they'd planned before the pandemic.

"We'd hoped to like be here for a month together and, you know, I could see his event and he could stay for mine," Armanto said. "But because of COVID and everything ..."

Armanto came away from Tokyo having not made up

her mind about whether she wants to go again in Paris. In an Instagram livestream from the Olympic residential compound where athletes were largely confined when not training or competing, she was wrestling with cabin fever, complaining of rooms that "feel a little prison-like" and wishing that organizers hadn't barred athletes from going to watch sports other than their own in their downtime.

"I've circled the perim-

eter quite a few times because what else do you do here?" Armanto asked.

Not being able to pass the time at sports venues was a common complaint.

"That's something I would have liked to have experienced as an Olympian, to go watch my other teammates, other than wrestlers, compete," said Elias Kuosmanen of Finland, who wrestled in the Greco-Roman heavyweight class.

At the 2016 Olympics in Rio

de Janeiro, Canadian volleyball player Nicholas Hoag took in gymnastics and track and field on off days, went out for drinks with teammates and otherwise absorbed the Olympic experience. But on days with no matches in Tokyo, "I was watching TV pretty much all day, watching all the sports."

Another Canadian volleyballer, Ryan Sclater, said the pandemic games were "a real mix of amazing things and weird things" and somewhat blunted by social distancing and mask wearing. Athletes were asked not to mingle outside their teams and avoid "unnecessary" hugs, high-fives and handshakes—guidance they frequently ignored in the heat and joy of competition.

"We are not quite connecting in the same way that we normally could," Sclater said. "It's funny being so close to all these amazing people who are here to compete but then not quite getting to know them in the same way as you might at a different Olympics."

But because the pandemic delayed Tokyo by a year, Paris is now only a three-year wait instead of the usual four.

"That is exciting, yes, to think about being able to do this again," Sclater said. "To see even more of the beauty and coolness of people coming together and being able to really connect to the Olympics."

## Fewer medals, more heart for US at a most unusual Olympics

**TOKYO (AP)—**Kara Winger is the American record-holder in the javelin throw who just wrapped up her fourth Olympics. She has never finished higher than sixth place.

When she got the call over the weekend telling her she would be carrying the flag Sunday for the United States at the closing ceremony of the Tokyo Games, her first reaction was "shock."

"I expected tweets with people saying 'What has she done?'" Winger said.

Turns out, an awful lot over a career that has spanned two decades. That the American athletes chose her as flagbearer is a fitting lens through which to view the U.S. accomplishments at these Games.

The Americans won 113 medals, which, for the fifth straight Summer Games, was double-digits more than the nearest competition. It was, however, eight fewer than what they won five years ago in a Rio de Janeiro Olympics with fewer events.

When the athletes voted for Winger to represent them, they tapped into the core message resonating inside a fractured, fractious U.S. Olympic

family over the last few years: The medals shouldn't matter more than the athletes who win them. Or sometimes not matter at all.

"We spent a ton of energy on creating an environment where people could be heard, and feel safe to be heard," said Sarah Hirshland, who came on as the CEO of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee in 2018.

She was tasked with repairing the damage from sexual-abuse cases that led athletes to wonder if they were valued for more than simply what they won.

If Winger as flagbearer is one sign that the USOPC has made some headway, then Simone Biles gets credit for making sure the message stayed front-and-center despite the hectic, pandemic-tainted run-up to an Olympics.

The willingness of the highest-profile athlete at the Games to step away because it didn't feel right, and to place her personal welfare over victory for herself and country, was startling at first.

Much more than costing medals, what Biles did was re-center the focus. As the Olympics moved into their

second week, all but the most cynical observers started celebrating athletes for winning bronze—or nothing—even if they were picked to win gold.

"These are not the USOPC's medals, these are the athletes' medals," Hirshland explained as the Biles decision was still reverberating.

That was part of what Hirshland pitched as a new outlook for the USOPC.

Leading up to the Games, the USOPC introduced new mental-health offerings and created a new athlete-service division—first as a nod to the fallout from the sex-abuse cases, then as a resource to help athletes cope with a yearlong delay and the COVID pandemic.

Their offices stayed busy over the 17 days in Tokyo.

In the end, COVID-19 knocked out only four of the 600-plus athletes officially named to the team, a remarkable logistical challenge in a pandemic that came with its share of stumbles and critiques. Some athletes who worked all their lives to get to this point were bitter that they couldn't share the trip with friends, family or fans.

That was largely a deci-

sion by local organizers that left the USOPC with limited options.

Still, Hirshland and the rest of the federation leaders are bound to hear their fair share of critiques—if not about Tokyo, then about what lies ahead.

The Beijing Games start a scant 180 days from Sunday's closing act in Tokyo. Much as the USOPC was forced into playing a lead role in changing the outlook on the IOC's rule banning demonstrations, it will be pressed by some to boycott those Games as a sign of protest of China's much-criticized human-rights record. The federation almost certainly won't go down that road, but the questions will persist.

So will doubts about its effectiveness in putting athletes first. A snapshot: One program designed to funnel more money into athletes' pockets through sponsorship deals has been lauded by some, but criticized by others in the tightly knit world of agents who deal with Olympic clients.

And the USOPC is still involved in a number of lawsuits stemming from abuse cases—so expect more nega-

tive headlines about the organization for months and years to come.

The federation also must figure out how to keep its NCAA pipeline rolling, and determine whether new rules that allow college athletes to make money off their names and likenesses will hurt or help the Olympic operation.

And, like it or not, the medal count did fall by 6%, even though there were more sports and more medals to be won. If it happens again three years from now in Paris, with the Los Angeles Olympics on deck, it stands to reason not everyone will be so sanguine.

And yet, there's a reason Winger got the nod to carry the flag Sunday night.

Her fellow Olympians appreciated the story of an athlete who devoted her life to throwing the javelin—"A lot of us are in weird sports," Winger acknowledged—knowing the rewards wouldn't all be hanging from her neck in the end.

"An absolute joy," Winger said. "I don't know what the medals feel like, but I don't think I'll ever top this honor. And for me, that's totally, totally fine."



# Wheeler throws 2-hitter, first-place Phillies beat Mets, 3-0



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Zack

Wheeler pitched a two-hitter and struck out 11, Bryce Harper homered and the first-place Philadelphia Phillies finished off a three-game sweep for their eighth straight victory, 3-0 over the fading New York Mets on Sunday.

Jean Segura and J.T. Realmuto also homered to help the Phillies move 2 1/2 games ahead of the Mets in the NL East. The streak is Philadelphia's longest since winning eight straight in July 2010.

The Mets got a pregame pep talk in the clubhouse from owner Steve Cohen before losing for the seventh time in eight tries. New York arrived at Citizens Bank Park this weekend leading the division.

Following an emotional ceremony to retire the jersey of Roy Halladay, Wheeler (10-6) pitched like the late Hall of Famer.

Wheeler gave up a double to Brandon Nimmo to start the game and then retired 22 consecutive batters until Michael Conforto walked in the eighth. Nimmo singled with one out in the ninth and Wheeler soon struck out slumping slugger Pete Alonso for his fourth career complete game, three of them shutouts.

Wheeler walked only one. He threw 80 of his 108 pitches for strikes.

Taijuan Walker (7-7) was the loser.

## Mariners 2, Yankees 0

In New York, Yusei Kikuchi and the Seattle bullpen combined on a six-hitter, Kyle Seager doubled to break a scoreless tie in the eighth inning and the Mariners avoided a four-game sweep, beating New York.

The Yankees had won five in a row. They lost for only the third time in 13 games, ending a tightly contested series between playoff contenders.

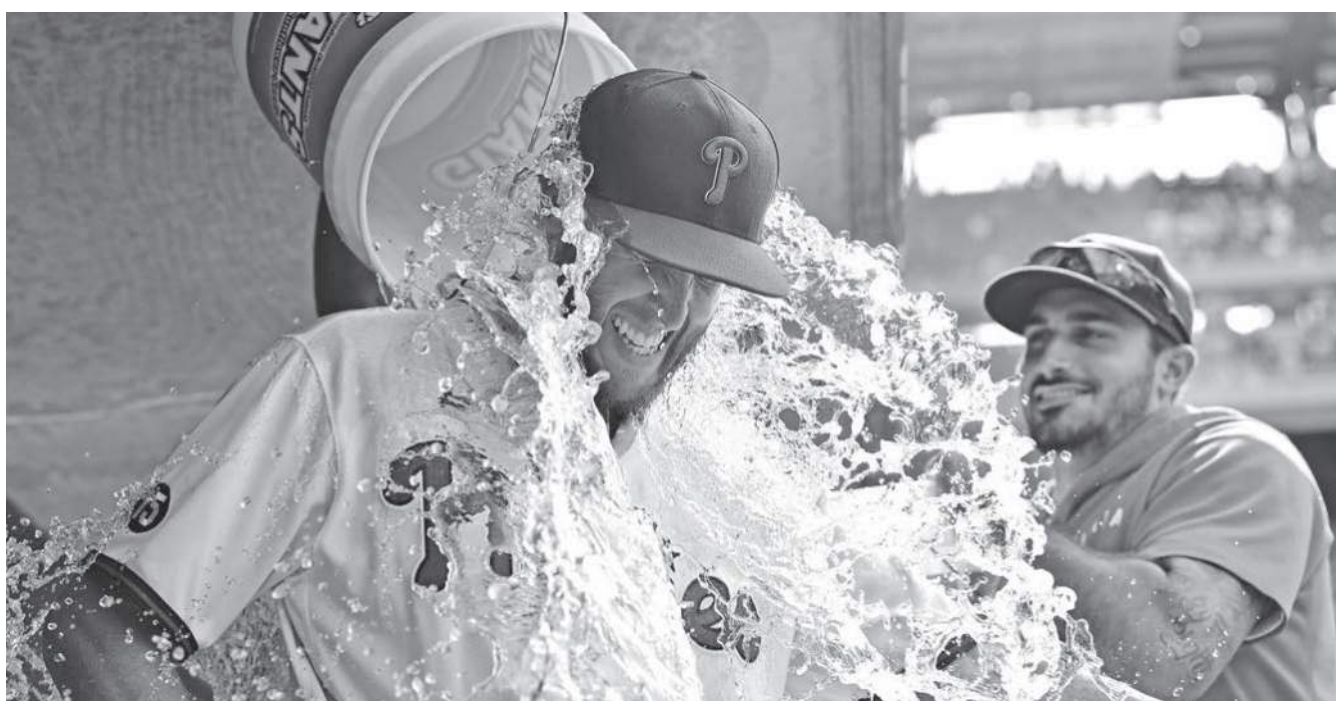
New York rookie starter Luis Gil pitched two-hit ball for five scoreless innings, striking out eight. In his big league debut Tuesday against Baltimore, he threw six shut-out innings, allowing four hits and fanning six.

Kikuchi and relievers Casey Sadler, Paul Sewald (7-3) and Drew Steckenrider combined to strike out 12, with Steckenrider pitching the final two innings for his fourth save.

Lucas Luetge (4-2) was the loser.

## Dodgers 8, Angels 2

In Los Angeles, Albert Pujols hit his first home run against the Los Angeles Angels since they released him in May, sending Walker Buehler and the Dodgers to the victory.



Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher Zack Wheeler is doused with water in the dugout by teammates Zack Eflin, right and Aaron Nola, rear, after a victory against the New York Mets, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021, in Philadelphia. AP

Cody Bellinger, the former NL MVP who has struggled mightily this season, homered for the second straight game, helping the World Series champions take two of three at Dodger Stadium in the Freeway Series.

Trea Turner, making his second start as the leadoff batter for the Dodgers since being acquired with Max Scherzer in a trade with Washington, scored twice.

The 41-year-old Pujols hit a two-run homer in the second inning, connecting as a pinch-hitter for Justin Turner, who exited with left groin discomfort. Pujols has 14 homers this season—nine in a Dodgers uniform—and 676 overall.

Buehler (12-2) pitched six strong innings, allowing one run on four hits and striking out eight. He worked around four walks.

Reid Detmers (0-2) was the loser.

## Blue Jays 9, Red Sox 8

In Toronto, George Springer hit a go-ahead three-run home run in the eighth inning and Toronto overcame a five-run deficit to beat Boston.

Vladimir Guerrero Jr. added a two-run drive to help the Blue Jays finish 9-2 on their first homestand in Canada since September 2019. Guerrero has 35 homers.

J.D. Martinez had four hits and three RBIs in his return to the Boston lineup after being reinstated from the COVID-19 list.

Rafael Dolis (2-3) pitched 1 1/2 innings for the win and Jordan Romano finished for his 10th save in 11 chances. Red Sox closer Matt Barnes (6-4) was the loser.

## Giants 5, Brewers 4

In Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Tommy La Stella singled in the go-ahead run in the eighth

inning and San Francisco beat Milwaukee to take two of three in the series between division leaders.

Brandon Belt had tied it in the seventh with a two-run pinch-hit homer off Daniel Norris. Darin Ruf also homered for the Brewers.

Tony Watson (4-3) was the winner and Zack Littell earned his first save of the season. Brad Boxberger (4-3) was the loser.

Omar Narváez homered for Milwaukee.

## Reds 3, Pirates 2

In Cincinnati, Tyler Mahle struck out 10, Kyle Farmer had another key hit and Cincinnati beat Pittsburgh for a four-game sweep.

Nick Castellanos added a double and scored as play-off-chasing Cincinnati continued its dominance of the Pirates, improving to 9-1 against them this season. Dating to last season, the Reds have won 13 of 14 games from Pittsburgh.

Cincinnati is a season-high 10 games over .500.

Mahle (9-3) allowed six hits without walk in seven innings. Mychal Givens earned his second save of the season. Bryce Wilson (2-5) was the loser.

Ke'Bryan Hayes homered for Pittsburgh.

## Rays 9, Orioles 6

In Baltimore, Brett Phillips capped his first career two-homer game with a tiebreaking grand slam in the eighth inning and Tampa Bay beat Baltimore for a three-game sweep.

After Orioles starter Jorge López flustered Tampa Bay's potent offense for six innings, the AL East-leading Rays feasted on Baltimore's shoddy bullpen to erase a 5-2 deficit and soar a season-high 24 games over .500.

JT Chargois (2-0) got the win with 1 1/3 innings of relief, Tampa Bay is 11-1 against

the last-place Orioles this season, outscoring them 94-48.

Cedric Mullins and Anthony Santander homered for Baltimore. Paul Fry (4-5) was the loser.

## Braves 5, Nationals 4

In Atlanta, Ozzie Albies and Adam Duvall hit two-run homers off Patrick Corbin, Max Fried pitched six strong innings and Atlanta beat Washington.

Corbin (6-11) has allowed 27 homers, most in the National League, and is 0-4 with a 7.22 ERA in his last five starts. The lefty has lost his last five starts against Atlanta.

Fried (9-7) stranded runners on first and third to end the sixth. He allowed seven hits and one run with one walk and five strikeouts.

Chris Martin faced five batters in the ninth for the Braves, earning a shaky first save in three chances.

## Twins 7, Astros 5

In Houston, Jorge Polanco homered twice and drove in four runs, Miguel Sanó also hit a home run and Minnesota beat Houston.

Kenta Maeda (5-4) allowed three runs on six hits with five strikeouts in five innings. He won for the first time since July 4. Alex Colomé pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Lance McCullers Jr. (9-3) allowed four runs on a season-high eight hits with four strikeouts in 4 2/3 innings. Houston has lost four of its last five games.

Carlos Correa homered for Houston.

## Indians 7, Tigers 5

In Cleveland, Miguel Cabrera got a planned day off in pursuit of his 500th career home run, and Cleveland, sparked by Bradley Zimmer's tie-breaking home run in the seventh, beat Detroit.

Cabrera, who has 498 hom-

ers, didn't play as part of Detroit manager A.J. Hinch's plan to help his slugger get through the season. The Tigers are off Monday and Cabrera will return to the lineup Tuesday in Baltimore.

Derek Hill's first major league home run in the second inning helped Detroit build a 5-2 lead, but Cleveland rallied and went ahead on Zimmer's two-run homer off Erasmo Ramírez (1-1). Owen Miller also homered for the Indians.

Bryan Shaw (5-5) pitched a scoreless seventh. Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his second save of the series and 16th of the season.

## White Sox 9, Cubs 3

In Chicago, Eloy Jiménez drove in five runs with two homers and a double and the Chicago White Sox beat the crosstown Cubs for their first sweep of a three-game series at Wrigley Field since May 2012.

Jiménez and Andrew Vaughn hit two-run shots after Tim Anderson led off the game with a solo drive as the White Sox hit Zach Davies (6-9) hard in a five-run first inning.

Anderson also finished with three hits as the AL Central-leading White Sox won their fourth straight and moved 10 1/2 games ahead of second-place Cleveland. The Cubs have dropped four straight and 10 of 12.

Dylan Cease (9-6) was the winner.

## Athletics 6, Rangers 3

In Oakland, Calif., Starling Marte went 4 for 5 with an RBI, Seth Brown homered and Oakland beat Texas to complete a three-game sweep.

Sean Murphy and Jed Lowrie each drove in two runs for Oakland. The A's have won four straight games to move into the top AL wild-card spot.

Isiah Kiner-Falefa homered for Texas, which lost its 14th

consecutive road game, two shy of the franchise record. The Rangers have lost six straight games overall.

A's rookie right-hander James Kaprielian (6-4) pitched six strong innings, allowing two runs on three hits. Lou Trivino pitched a scoreless ninth for his 18th save.

Jordan Lyles (5-9) was the loser. Kiner-Falefa homered for Texas.

## Padres 2, Diamondbacks 0

In San Diego, Blake Snell struck out 13 over seven sharp innings, Jake Cronenworth homered and drove in both runs and San Diego beat Madison Bumgarner and Arizona.

Snell (6-4) did not allow a hit until the fifth and won a second straight start for the first time this season. The left-hander tied his longest outing since joining the Padres this year, yielding just two hits and walking three. Mark Melancon worked around a double by Kole Calhoun in the ninth for his 33rd save.

Bumgarner (6-7) allowed two runs on six hits over seven innings.

## Rockies 13, Marlins 8

In Denver, C.J. Cron hit two home runs, including a grand slam, and finished with a career-best seven RBIs to help Colorado beat Miami for a three-game sweep.

Connor Joe also had two homers, including the first pinch-hit home run of his career, and Dom Nunez and Sam Hilliard also connected for the Rockies. Colorado hit 11 homers in outscoring the Marlins 34-14 over the three games.

Miami's Alex Jackson had a three-run homer in the eighth, Jesús Aguilar went deep in the ninth and had three RBIs.

Kyle Freeland (3-6) was the winner. David Hess (2-2) took the loss.

## Royals 6, Cardinals 5

In St. Louis, Nicky Lopez hit a tiebreaking single in the ninth inning after a long rain delay and Kansas City beat St. Louis to avert a three-game sweep.

It was 5-all when Hanser Alberto began the Royals ninth with a single off closer Alex Reyes (5-5). Jarrod Dyson put down a bunt that first baseman Paul Goldschmidt threw wildly trying for a forceout, leaving runners at second and third before play was stopped for 2 hours, 10 minutes. When the game resumed, Lopez delivered a one-out hit to right to break the tie.

Scott Barlow (4-3) got two outs for the win. Richard Lovelady recorded his first save with a perfect ninth.

Dylan Carlson homered for St. Louis.



# Peyton's Place is Hall of Fame, with Woodson, Megatron

**CANTON, Ohio**  
(AP)—Peyton's Place is now in Canton at the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The only five-time NFL MVP and a two-time Super Bowl winner who left the game five years ago with a slew of passing records was enshrined Sunday night with other members of the class of 2021. The stadium rocked with cheers from fans in Colts blue or Broncos orange — the two franchises he took to the top — when Manning was introduced.

The man who could spend seemingly endless moments changing plays at the line then jabbed at the time limits set by the hall because of 19 acceptance speeches this weekend. The 2020 class and a special centennial class had their enshrinements delayed a year by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The 2021 induction class wants to thank those previous inductees who gave long-wind-



Peyton Manning, left, a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame Class of 2021, and his presenter and father Archie Manning unveil a bust of Peyton during the induction ceremony at the Pro Football Hall of Fame, Sunday, Aug. 8, 2021, in Canton, Ohio. AP

ed acceptance speeches," said Manning, who was presented by his father, Archie, himself a College Football Hall of Fame

member. "Forcing us to have a whopping six minutes to recap our football careers. I want to give a special thanks to my old

rival Ray Lewis for being here tonight. Ray just finished giving his speech that he started in 2018."

Joining Manning in this year's class were two other first-time eligibles, defensive back Charles Woodson—who beat out Manning for the 1997 Heisman Trophy—and receiver Calvin Johnson. Also in the class were safety John Lynch, a seven-time finalist before getting in; guard Alan Faneca, a premier blocker for 13 seasons, winning a Super Bowl with Pittsburgh and making six All-Pro teams; coach Tom Flores, who led the Raiders to two titles; Cowboys wideout Drew Pearson, a 1970s NFL All-Decade player; and Steelers super scout Bill Nunn.

Manning gave a shoutout to Tom Brady, who he invited to the ceremony, noting that it will be 2035 before Brady, now 44, will have been retired long enough to be enshrined.

As for the NFL itself, Manning urged anyone involved in the league to "ignite the future of the sport. If not, we are not doing football justice. It is

about nurturing football to live another day, another year... The future of this game is ours to shape."

His fellow entrants into the hall shape up pretty nicely in the pro football pantheon.

Flores, the first man to win Super Bowls as a player, assistant coach and head coach, was a backup quarterback for the Chiefs in the fourth Super Bowl, a Raiders assistant to John Madden in the 11th, and head coach when the Raiders won the 15th and 18th games.

Flores, of Mexican descent, long ago became a hero to the Latino community, a symbol of success on and off the field. He emphasized the importance of passion on the road to success.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### MLB STANDINGS

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Tampa Bay	68	44	.607	—
Boston	65	49	.570	4
New York	61	50	.550	6½
Toronto	60	50	.545	7
Baltimore	38	72	.345	29

##### Central Division

Chicago	66	46	.589	—
Cleveland	54	55	.495	10½
Detroit	54	60	.474	13
Kansas City	48	62	.436	17
Minnesota	48	64	.429	18

##### West Division

Houston	66	46	.589	—
Oakland	64	48	.571	2
Seattle	59	54	.522	7½
Los Angeles	56	56	.500	10
Texas	39	73	.348	27

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

Philadelphia	59	53	.527	—
Atlanta	57	55	.509	2
New York	56	55	.505	2½
Washington	50	62	.446	9
Miami	47	65	.420	12

##### Central Division

Milwaukee	66	46	.589	—
Cincinnati	61	51	.545	5
St. Louis	55	56	.495	10½
Chicago	52	61	.460	14½
Pittsburgh	41	71	.366	25

##### West Division

San Francisco	71	41	.634	—
Los Angeles	67	45	.598	4
San Diego	64	49	.566	7½
Colorado	51	61	.455	20
Arizona	35	78	.310	36½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Jess Farinas wins Bamboo Bar 8-ball tourney

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Jess Fariñas went unscathed en route to winning the Battle of Champions held last July 31 at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road.

The 29-year-old, playing with the solid balls, needed only to beat Jerry Soriano in the first game to win the \$500 first place purse in the July edition of the 8-ball monthly tournament, while Soriano settled for the \$250 runner-up cash prize. Fariñas came into the championship match with



Jess Fariñas, third from left, won the Battle of Champions held last July 31 at the New Bamboo Bar in Saipan Las Vegas Resort along Middle Road. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

the twice-to-beat advantage, but apparently didn't need two games to dispose of his rival.

He attributed his win against the veteran Soriano to Lady Luck. "I had confidence as the game went on as I was able to

take an early lead against Jerry. In fairness, Jerry also had some shots not go in so I just capitalized and won," he said in Filipino.

This was the third time Fariñas advanced to the finals. The

first time was last February when the Zambales, Philippines native finished runner-up to Ray Matsunaga and the second was last April when he went all the way and won the title, incidentally also against Soriano.

The July champion got out of the first round by outplaying Albert Pangilinan. He then got the better of Nolan Cultura in the next round before moving on to the finals after subduing Rowell "Cobra" Marianas in the semifinals.

Soriano, meanwhile, started his campaign with a victory over Lito Pangilinan before hurdling June Battle of Champions winner Rey Hermogenes in the second round. In

the semis, Soriano drubbed Cesar Sangalang to book the finals meeting with eventual champion Fariñas. Sangalang, who defeated Hermogenes in the loser's bracket finals, settled for third place and the \$100 second runner-up prize. Hermogenes came in fourth and went home with \$50.

A total of 16 pool masters took part in the July 8-ball tournament at the New Bamboo Bar. The tournament, sponsored by New Bamboo Bar, Saipan Vegas, and Budweiser, gathers the champions of the past weekly competitions and is held every month. For more information, call Soriano at 588-1971.

## TANHOLDINGS

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with her goal in the seventh minute. Audrey Castro and Rizza Relucio tallied the next two in the ninth and 12th minute, respectively, while Tamia Hix delivered the killer blows for TanHoldings, as she registered three straight goals. Hix's string of goals was all made in the second half with her first recorded in the 35th

minute and the last two in the 45th and 47th.

Joining Hix, Castro, Relucio, and Chavez on the champion team are Matty Angeles, Julie Anne Chavez, Aubrey Castro, Julie Ann Capayas, and Mia Abuan.

Meanwhile, Pia Ngewakl made the lone goal for Southern United, which advanced to the finals after outclassing Kanoa FC-1 in the semis, 11-8. Kanoa-1 settled for the

third-place honors following a 6-0 victory over Paire.

In the co-ed U12 finals, the top-seeded Paire was also in full control of its title duel against Shirley's Football Club after coasting to a 5-0 win.

As expected, Rodney Junior Tomei powered Paire to the victory when he fired a hat trick in the one-game finals. Tomei started the championship game with back-to-back

goals after scoring in the 11th and 21st minute, while his third and last came in the 37th minute. Paire's two other goals were courtesy of siblings Jazzroy Lee and Jayten Lee Villagomez, who found the back of the net in the 27th and 43rd minute, respectively.

Besides the Villagomez brothers and Tomei, Alana Hayes, Rodrick Hernandez, Austin Aldan, Lucas Wu, Caurie Staffler, Joey Mostales,

Dyson and Aidi Danis, Nathan Borja, Hanna Li, Justidy Mizutani, Jacob Chipulong, Ethan Manglona, and Anya Lewis also played for Paire.

Paire was unbeaten this season as it swept the preliminary round after recording a 5-0-0 mark. The eventual champion made it six in a row with a 6-1 victory over Matansa FC in the semis before shutting down Shirley's in the finale to earn a perfect record.

## BUCO

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lands Cycling Federation and fellow bike riders for taking part in the early morning mile individual time trial, which coincidentally was his first time to try the format.

He also wished the CNMI's next generation of cyclists to continue to improve so the islands would be represented well in the off-island events like the inaugural Pacific Cup in Guam.

The up-and-coming cyclists BUCO was probably alluding to are the likes of Arvin Velasco, who in this race impressed but still was not enough to beat the veteran rider after the 28-year-old Commonwealth Health Center dialysis technician finished the race in 26:46, good for second.

"Honestly, I wasn't confident on the time trial as I'm still more comfortable with courses that involve uphill climbs so in a way I'm ecstatic

coming in second place, especially I haven't really been training really. I've only been doing fun rides lately," he said.

Velasco said he's already looking forward to the Pacific Cup in the neighboring U.S. territory in December. "If there's chance why not. It would be fun because it's a new course and also with new competitors."

Completing the Top 3 in the men's division was Mark Isip, who come in at 27:16, while fourth place went to Cesar

Fortaleza at 28:35. A total of 22 cyclists took part in the individual time trial.

Ayano Braxton was the lone female cyclist to take part in the time trial and she crossed the finish line 16th overall in a time of 31:34.

"I felt good. But would like to practice more before the competition to make sure I'm at my best possible," she said.

The tryout determined the CNMI's delegates to the Pacific Cup set in Guam on Dec. 10 and

12, 2021. The Pacific Cup will have a time trial on Dec. 10 and the 105-km road race will be held two days later on Dec. 12.

NMICF's Jay Diyco said the top male and female finishers in the individual time trial (BUCO and Braxton) will get an all-expense paid trip to Guam courtesy of Oceania Cycling Confederation. The rest of the three delegates' costs going to Guam will be shouldered by the local federation and will be raised through fundraisers.

## MVA

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and Shirley's Coffee Shop. VIP Package Sponsors are Armatech, Ben's International Corp., Chung Nam Corp., Chong's Corp., Dial Rent to Own, DOCOMO Pacific Saipan, Ernst and Young, Ina's Kitchen, the Japan Saipan Travel Association, Kensington Saipan Hotel, Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Pacific Saipan. The tournament is also supported by numerous in-kind sponsors.

For more information, contact tournament chair Glenn Policare at glenn\_policare@kanoaresort.com or visit [www.facebook.com/HAN-MI670](http://www.facebook.com/HAN-MI670). (PR)





**After Tokyo, Olympians hanker for 2024 Games**

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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Peyton's Place is Hall of Fame, with Woodson, Megatron**

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

**20** TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2021

## MVA is Presidential Suite Sponsor for HANMI tourney

The Marianas Visitors Authority has joined the Tan Siu Lin Foundation as a Presidential Suite Sponsor for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament on Aug. 14, 2021 at Coral Ocean Resort. The tournament will benefit the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 to be held on Saipan, which will bring an estimated 2,000 visitors to the islands.



“As the ambassador of the islands, the team at MVA is always there to assist and promote,” said tournament committee chair Glenn Policare. “Having MVA on board as a Presidential Suite sponsor shows their level of dedication no matter the situation or economic climate.”

Golfers will have the chance to win several hole-in-one prizes, including a 2021 Toyota Camry LE from Atkins Kroll Saipan, a 2021

Hyundai Elantra from Triple J Motors, a 2021 Nissan Kicks from Joeten Motors Company, and \$10,000 cash from United Equipment Rental.

The tournament fee of \$140 includes green fee and the awards luncheon, and registration forms are available at [www.saipanhotels.org](http://www.saipanhotels.org). For an additional \$30, players may also compete for optional play cash and prizes, including longest drive (male and female), accurate drive, and

four chances for nearest to the pin. Showtime is 6am and the tournament will start at 7am. An awards presentation and raffle will be held poolside immediately following the tournament at Coral Ocean Resort.

Deluxe Package Sponsors are Bridge Capitol LLC and Pacific Eco Laundry. Superior Package Sponsors are Grand Vrio Resort Saipan, Saipan World Resort, Kanoa Resort Saipan, IT&E, Kautz Glass

**See MVA on Page 19**



Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Priscilla Maratita lakopo, third right, donates \$2,000 for the 19th Annual HANMI Charity Classic Golf Tournament slated for Aug. 14, 2021, at Coral Ocean Resort in Saipan. From left, MVA Community Projects specialist Ray Villagomez, tournament committee chair Glenn Policare, MVA Community Projects manager Martin Duenas, MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda, and MVA administrative assistant Sherri Llagas.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Rodney Junior Tomei scored a hat trick in their 5-0 title victory against Shirley's FC in the co-ed U12 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## TanHoldings, Paire deliver

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

TanHoldings Football Club and Paire Football Club lived up to high expectations after cruising their way to a finals victory in their respective divisions in the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

TanHoldings, which topped the preliminary round of the

girls U15 division after earning a 5-0 record, completed its



domination of the short summer season with a 6-1 rout of Southern United FC in their title match. TanHoldings wrapped the competition with a 7-0-0 win-draw-loss mark, counting its 16-0 demolition of Paire FC in the semis.

In the finals, four different players scored for TanHoldings with Kaithlyn Chavez starting things off for the team

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TanHoldings Football Club players and coach Albert Bergancia pose for a photo after their title win over Southern United FC, 6-1, in the girls U15 division of the NMIFA Summer Youth League 2021 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## Buco, Braxton pace Pacific Cup tryouts



Ayano Braxton was the lone female who took part in last Sunday morning's Oceania Cycling Confederation's Pacific Cup in Marpi.

LAO ZHANG



Joel Buco was fleetest on two wheels in last Sunday morning's Oceania Cycling Confederation's Pacific Cup in Marpi.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

By MARK RABAGO  
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Joel Buco went nuts in the homestretch to top the tryouts for Oceania Cycling Confederation's Pacific Cup set for Dec. 10 and 12 in Guam this year.



The 48-year-old The Water Company literally made short work of the 10-mile individual time trial from Banzai Cliff to the Mobil gas station in Tanapang and back to Banzai

Cliff in 25:44 last Sunday.

“I’m happy I won because I didn’t expect to win because I haven’t been training lately because of work. I also want to thank God for giving me the strength to take the victory,” he said in Filipino.

The Nueva Ecija, Philippines native also thanked his friend and training partner, Jay Ann Felipe, as well as organizer Northern Mariana Is-

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